

LEADING
No. 5
WINTER
ISSUE

FIVE FAVORITE FEATURES!

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Leading COMICS

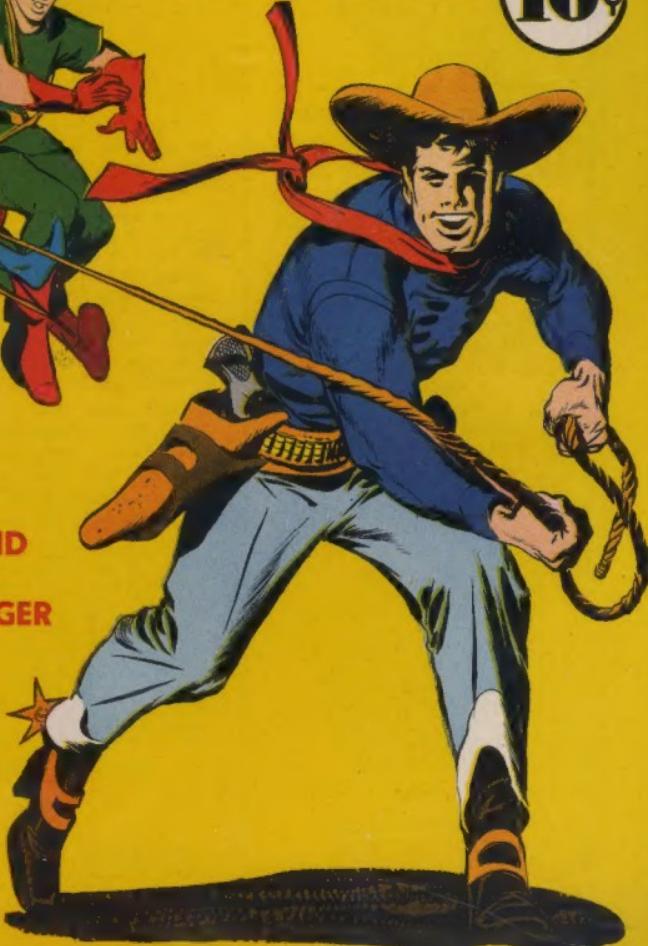
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VIGILANTE
GREEN ARROW
STAR-SPANGLED KID
SHINING KNIGHT
AND CRIMSON AVENGER

ALL GO TO TOWN
TOGETHER IN A
FAST FULL-LENGTH
ADVENTURE AGAINST
AS WILY A RASCAL
AS EVER GAVE SEVEN
HEROES A TUSSE IN
THE STORY OF

"THE MIRACLES THAT
MONEY COULDN'T BUY"



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GOOD BOOKS WORTH READING

reviewed by **JOSETTE FRANK**, staff advisor

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SALUTE

By **C. W. Anderson**



"Some day I hope to own a real race horse," said Peter as he cleaned one of the work horses on his father's farm. And that is just what happened.

Peter heard the grown people talking about the great horses that would run in the races at Saratoga. How he longed to go there and see them for himself! Perhaps he did a lot of chores around the place that morning because his father might take him along to the big races. And sure enough! His father did ask him to go along.

At the races a wonderful thing happened to Peter. Mohawk, an old race horse, had gone lame, and somehow Peter managed to get him for himself. Peter was so happy he could hardly speak.

Home again, with a race horse of his own, Peter was about trying to heal Mohawk's lame leg. Would his horse ever be able to race again? And how would Peter finally one day, come to own a grandson of the great Man-O'-War?

You will find all the answers in this interesting book. It has beautiful pictures of horses, too.

This review of *Salute* was written by Jackie Caudell, of Green S. C., and was selected as the winner of the \$5.00 award. A check has been sent to Jackie. Other fine reviews were written by:

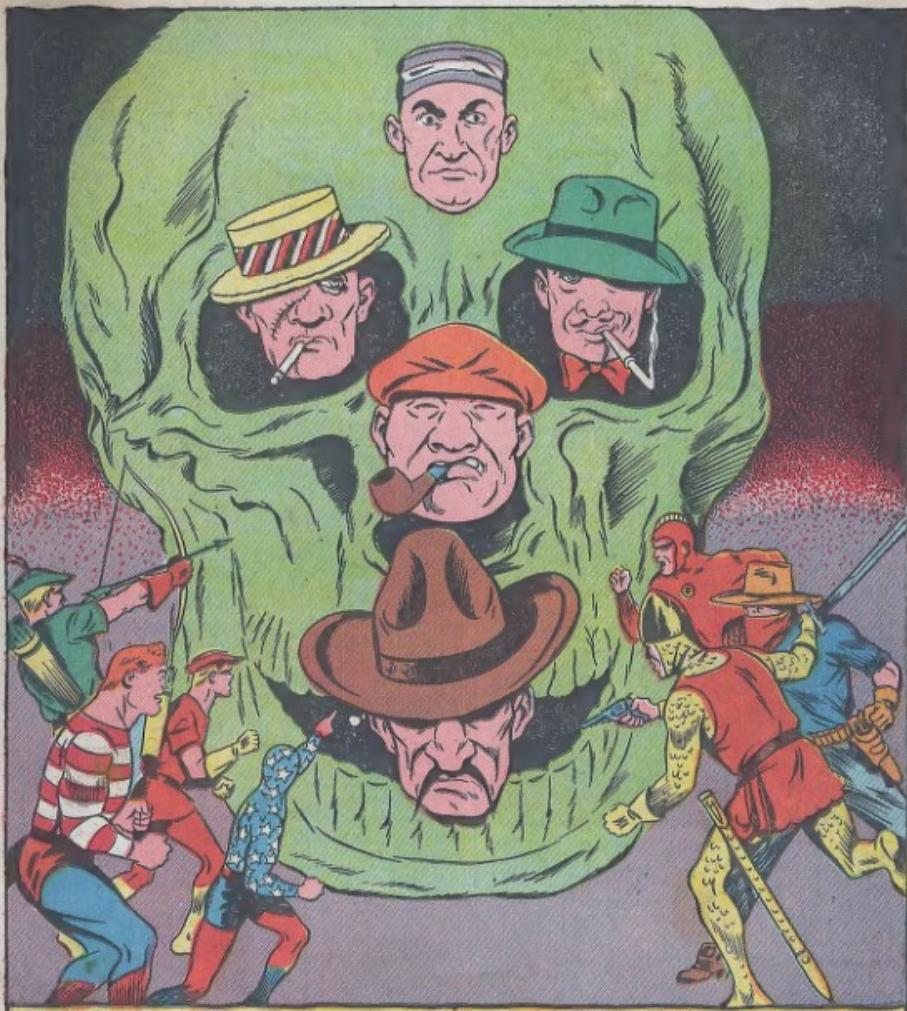
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SUPERMAN'S SECRET MESSAGE

(Code Krypton No. 9)

WXP RB CQN CRVN OXA NENAH KXH CX
CQN JRM XO QRB LKDWCAB KH KDHWRP
JWM KWMB!



Possessed of cold, ruthless, calculating power... driven by a diabolically cunning, scheming brain that scoffs at justice and toys with murder... moving with a mastery over men and money unmatched by any other mortal... such is the man known and feared as THE SKULL! And the seven soldiers of victory, enmeshed in a maze of dark and dangerous design, find themselves battling for their lives as they pit their magic skill and matchless courage against the foul and felonious plans of the wealthiest man in the world in his quest for

"THE MIRACLES THAT MONEY COULDN'T BUY!"

IN THE OFFICE OF THE GLOBE-LEADER, LEE TRAVIS, BETTER KNOWN IN HIS GUISE OF THE CRIMSON AVENGER, WAITS IMPATIENTLY FOR THE JANGLING OF A DISTANT BELL ---.

OPERATOR, I'VE BEEN
TRYING FOR FIFTEEN
MINUTES TO GET THE
STATE PRISON!
I WANT TO SPEAK
TO THE WARDEN!

I'M SORRY, SIR, THE
LINE IS DEAD!
SOMETHING IS
WRONG AT THE
PRISON!



THERE'S A PHONE CALL, SIR,
FROM A MAN WHO SAYS HE'S
THE CRIMSON AVENGER !
IT'S URGENT !

IT MUST BE, OR
THE AVENGER
WOULDN'T BOTHER
TO CALL ME AT
THIS TIME !

A SWIFT TWIRL OF THE TELEPHONE DIAL AND
IN ANOTHER PART OF THE VAST METROPOLIS...

IT'S BEEN A
PLEASURE TO
ADDRESS YOU,
GENTLEMEN,
AND SPEAK OF
MY EXPERIENCES
IN FIGHTING
CRIME! THANK
YOU VERY MUCH!

MR. GREEN ARROW...



LATER--THE ARROWPLANE, FASTEST THING ON WHEELS,
WITH A CARGO OF CRIME-CHASERS, SPEEDS
TOWARD THE STATE PRISON --

PORKY JOHNSON
COMMITTED MANY
MURDERS, AND YOU
GREEN ARROW,
BROUGHT HIM TO
JUSTICE! THAT'S
WHY I GOT IN TOUCH
WITH YOU!

WE'LL BE AT THE PRISON
IN FIFTEEN MINUTES!
I HOPE WE'RE NOT TOO LATE!

MEANWHILE... DEATH HOVERS OVER
THE GRIM GRAY WALLS OF THE
PENITENTIARY---

ARE THEY GOING TO
BE SURPRISED WHEN
THESE BOMBS LAND?

NEVER MIND
THE CHATTER,
FOLLOW THE
SKULL'S
ORDERS
AND PULL
THE LEVER!



DOZENS OF INCENDIARY
BOMBS BURST INTO FLAMES OVER
THE PRISON BUILDINGS ---



WHILE, UNNOTICED IN THE CONFUSION,
BILL JOHNSON CLIMBS ONE OF THE
TOWERING STONE WALLS ----

THEY THOUGHT
THEY'D HANG ME
TODAY, BUT THE
SKULL SAID
THEY WOULDN'T
... AND HE KEPT
HIS PROMISE!

IF I JUMP DOWN
OUTSIDE, THEY'LL
TRAIL ME WITH
BLOODHOUNDS,
AND CAPTURE ME
AGAIN-- AH,
THAT LADDER!

I WONDER WHY THE SKULL
IS DOING ALL THIS FOR ME?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO
HE IS!

BUT AS THE ESCAPING CONVICT CLAMBERS
TOWARD FREEDOM, THE TRIO OF LEGIONNAIRES
ARRIVES ON THE SCENE ----

SEEMS LIKE WE'RE
TOO LATE, GREEN
ARROW!

WE'VE STILL GOT
A CHANCE TO GET
HIM! ALL SET FOR
THE CATAPULT,
SPEEDY!

THE TOUCH OF A
TRIGGER.. AND
THE WIZARD ARCHER SAILS THROUGH
THE AIR WITH THE SPEED OF ONE OF HIS OWN ARROWS!

I HOPE SPEEDY'S
AIM WAS GOOD...
IT'LL BE TOO
BAD IF I MISS
THAT LADDER!

JUST MADE IT! AND NOW
TO SPOIL JOHNSON'S
ESCAPE!

HEY, WHERE
DID YOU COME
FROM?

YOU PUT YOUR FOOT
IN IT WHEN YOU BUTTED
IN THIS TIME,
GREEN ARROW!

UGH... MY HEAD'S
GOING IN CIRCLES
... I'VE GOT
TO HOLD ON...

AS THE DAZED ARCHER STRUGGLES TO RETAIN HIS GRIP, HIS CRIMINAL FOE CLIMBS TO SAFETY...AND THEN...



I'VE GOT TO ACT FAST... WHILE I'M STILL IN THE AIR...



STRAIGHT THROUGH ONE OF THE PLANE WINGS WHIZZES THE STEEL BARB... AND THE MASTER BOWMAN'S SUDDEN DESCENT IS CHECKED!



BUT UP ABOVE, IN THE COCKPIT...

HE'S STILL TRYING
TO GET ME! WE'LL
HAVE TO GET RID OF
HIM SOMEHOW!

WE'RE PASSING
OVER A FOREST
... I'VE GOT AN
IDEA...



WE'LL SWING HIM AGAINST ONE OF THOSE TREES ON THE END OF HIS OWN ARROWLINE!



I GET IT! THEY'RE TRYING TO GET RID OF ME! I'LL HAVE TO TIME THIS JUST RIGHT!





SOON... ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, A SERIES OF SENSATIONAL ESCAPES BRINGS FREEDOM TO VIOLENT CRIMINALS, AND BAFFLING HEADACHES TO THE POLICE!



GREIDER, THIS IS AN ORDER TO HAVE YOU TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER PRISON! YOU'LL GO WITH THIS OFFICER!

HE DON'T KNOW THE ORDER WAS FORGED! THIS FAKE COP IS ONE OF THE SKULL'S MEN!



MEANWHILE ... IN A DOMAIN WORTHY OF AN ORIENTAL MONARCH RISES A TOWERING CASTLE CONSTRUCTED WITH MATCHLESS SPLENDOR...



MASTER OF ITS WONDROUS WEALTH IS NONE OTHER THAN... THE SKULL!

YOU GENTLEMEN ARE WONDERING WHY I HAD YOU RELEASED FROM JAIL!



NO, GENTLEMEN, I'M NOT A PROFESSIONAL CRIMINAL. I AM A WEALTHY MAN, WEALTHY BEYOND DREAMS! BUT THERE ARE SOME THINGS MY MONEY CANNOT BUY! YOU SHALL GET THEM FOR ME!



YOU, SLADE, ARE AN EXPERT WITH HORSES! I WANT YOU TO STEAL SPINAWAY, THE WORLD'S FASTEST RACER, WHICH HIS OWNER REFUSED TO SELL TO ME AT ANY PRICE!



YOU SAVED ME FROM BEING SHOT BY A FIRING SQUAD, SKULL! I'LL GET THAT HORSE FOR YOU!

SPARKLER, YOU KNOW GEMS! YOU MUST GET FOR ME THE FAMOUS KORAM DIAMOND, WHICH I COULDN'T BUY FOR A MILLION DOLLARS!



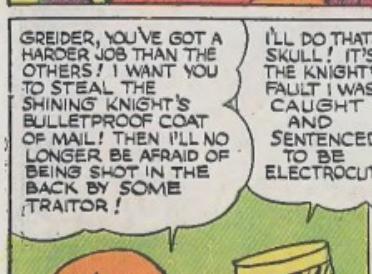
SKULL, IF NOT FOR YOU, I'D BE DEAD IN A LETHAL CHAMBER RIGHT NOW! THAT DIAMOND IS AS GOOD AS IN YOUR POCKET!

CORBIN, IT'S UP TO YOU TO STEAL THE ROCKET SHIP WHICH AN INVENTOR IS BUILDING IN KENTUCKY! WITH THAT I SHALL BE ABLE TO TAKE A PLEASURE TRIP TO THE MOON!



I'LL FOLLOW ORDERS, SKULL!

GREIDER, YOU'VE GOT A HARDER JOB THAN THE OTHERS! I WANT YOU TO STEAL THE SHINING KNIGHT'S BULLETPROOF COAT OF MAIL! THEN I'LL NO LONGER BE AFRAID OF BEING SHOT IN THE BACK BY SOME TRAITOR!



I'LL DO THAT, SKULL! IT'S THE KNIGHT'S FAULT I WAS CAUGHT AND SENTENCED TO BE ELECTROCUTED.

AS FOR YOU, JOHNSON, YOUR JOB IS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT! I WANT YOU TO SECURE A MACHINE WHOSE RAYS BRING ABOUT PERPETUAL YOUTH! I'M GETTING TO BE AN OLD MAN, AND I'M AFRAID OF DYING!

YES, GENTLEMEN, I, WHO AM THE WEALTHIEST MAN IN THE WORLD, WANT THESE MIRACLES THAT MONEY CAN'T BUY! YOUR QUESTS MUST BE SUCCESSFUL! NOW BE OFF... AND GOOD LUCK!



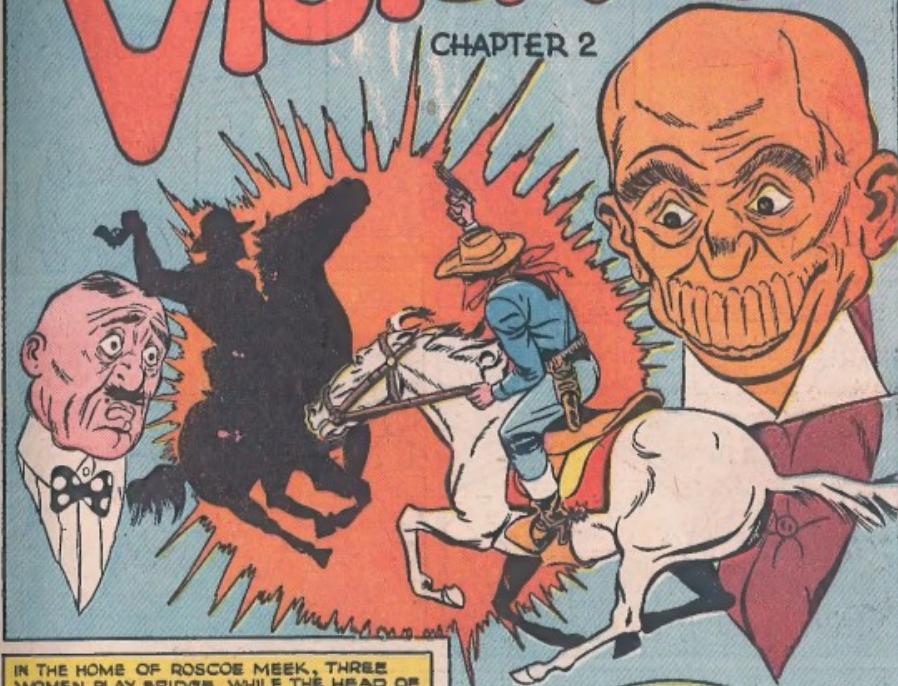
JUST TELL ME WHERE IT IS, SKULL, AND IT'S YOURS!

GOOD LUCK TO THE SKULL'S MEN MEANS AN EVIL DESTINY FOR LAW-ABIDING MANKIND! IS THE SKULL, AS HE THINKS, REALLY ABOVE THE LAW? DOES HIS GIANTIC WEALTH GIVE HIM THE POWER TO FLOUT THE RULES WHICH ORDINARY MORTALS MUST OBEY? HAVE THE

SEVEN SOLDIERS OF VICTORY FINALLY MET THEIR NEMESIS? WE SHALL SEE!

The VIGILANTE

CHAPTER 2



IN THE HOME OF ROSCOE MEEK, THREE WOMEN PLAY BRIDGE, WHILE THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY SULKS IN THE KITCHEN...

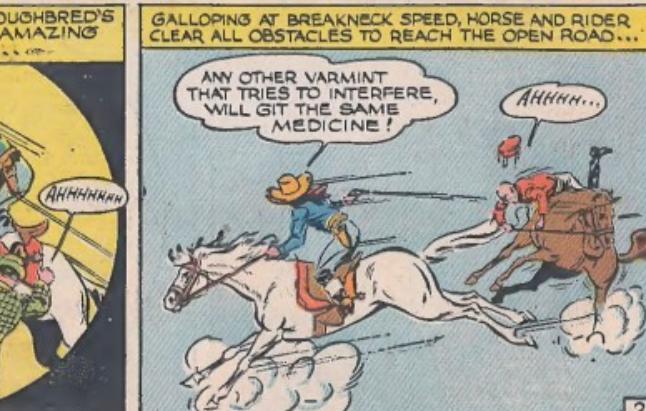
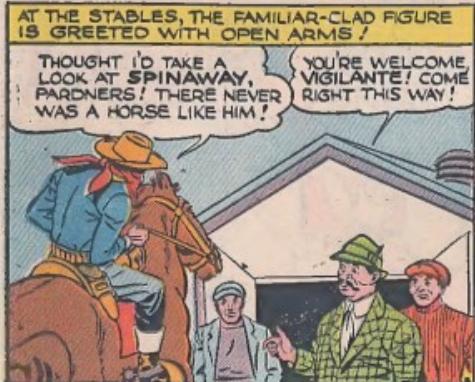
IT'S WONDERFUL HOW YOU CONTROL YOUR HUSBAND, MRS. MEEK! HE DOES EVERYTHING YOU SAY!

SHUCKS, I WISH I HAD THE NERVE TO TALK BACK TO HER! IF I WAS ONLY LIKE THE VIGILANTE!



FIRST OF
THE SINISTER SKULL'S
HENCHMEN TO STRIKE,
BRONCO SLADE IS QUICK
TO SCORE WITH SAVAGE SUCCESS!
DEVISING A DIABOLICAL DOUBLE-
EDGED SCHEME, HE ENTANGLES THE
VIGILANTE IN ITS VILE MESHES...AND
DEATH STARES THE WARRIOR OF THE
PLAINS IN THE FACE, AS THE DARING
DESPERADO COMBINES THEFT
AND MURDER TO PERPLEX THE
POLICE, AND UNLEASH THE LAW
AGAINST ITS OWN ENFORCER
IN

"THE CASE
OF THE CRIMINAL
VIGILANTE!"



WHILE NEARBY, AN ASTOUNDED HERO-WORSHIPPER STANDS AGAPE!

THAT TAKES CARE OF THE LAST ONE! THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO FOLLOW ME NOW!

THE VIGILANTE-A MURDERER, AND THIEF! I'VE SEEN IT WITH MY OWN EYES, BUT I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!



MEANWHILE, DEEMING HIMSELF SAFE FROM PURSUIT, BRONCO SLADE—WHO IS INDEED THE SPURIOUS VIGILANTE—HEADS FOR A PREPARED HIDEAWAY...

THIS'LL PUT THE VIGILANTE OUT OF THE WAY! HE'LL HAVE A HARD TIME TALKING HIMSELF OUT OF THIS FRAME-UP! THE COPS WILL ARREST HIM AT SIGHT! HE WON'T BE ABLE TO SHOW HIMSELF!



I'LL BET IT'S A THIEF DISGUISED AS HIM! MAYBE IT'S BRONCO SLADE! HE ALWAYS STOLE HORSES!



I'LL FOLLOW, AND MAYBE I'LL BE ABLE TO CAPTURE HIM AND COLLECT THAT REWARD! GOLLY, WON'T MY WIFE BE SURPRISED!



BUT IN A LOCAL THEATRE, WHERE GREG SANDERS, THE PRAIRIE TROUBADOUR, IS MAKING A PERSONAL APPEARANCE...

THE VIGILANTE KILLED THREE MEN AND RODE OFF ON SPINAWAY!

SOME SIDEWINDER HAS DISGUISED HIMSELF AS ME AND COMMITTED MURDER! I'LL HAVE TO ACT FAST IF I DON'T WANT HIM TO GET AWAY WITH IT!



HEADING FOR THE SCENE OF THE CRIME...

THE POLICE ARE WATCHING ALL ROADS FOR A MAN ON A RACE-HORSE! IT WON'T BE EASY TO GET SPINAWAY PAST THEM! BUT I'LL HAVE TO BE ALERT, FOR TRICKS!



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS CRIME-BUSTING CAREER, THE WARRIOR OF THE PLAINS FINDS HIMSELF IN CONFLICT WITH LAW AND ORDER!

STOP!

SORRY, BOYS, I HAVEN'T GOT TIME TO EXPLAIN! I'LL BE BACK AFTER I TRAP A SNEAKIN' COYOTE!





OVER THE RISE OF THE HILL RACES THE VIGILANTE! AND THEN, FAR AHEAD...





POOR ROSCOE MEEK RECEIVES A REWARD HE DID NOT EXPECT!

THIS WILL LEARN YUH NOT TO TANGLE WITH TROUBLE!

I'LL LEAVE THE VIGILANTE HERE, WHERE THE POLICE WILL BE ABLE TO PICK HIM UP.

AHHHH...



MEANWHILE, I'LL DELIVER SPINAWAY TO THE SKULL AND PAY OFF MY DEBT TO HIM!



MOMENTS LATER ...

I DIDN'T KNOW SLADE COULD HIT AS HARD AS THAT!

IT WAS I WHO HIT YOU, VIGILANTE, BY MISTAKE! I'M SORRY! I WAS TRYING TO HELP YOU!



NEVER MIND, FRIEND. LET BYGONES BE BYGONES! WE'LL CATCH THAT SIDEWINDER YET!

IT'S NICE OF YOU TO SAY THAT, VIGILANTE! WHEN I DO SOMETHING WRONG AT HOME, MY WIFE WILL NEVER LET ME FORGET IT!



SOON THE WESTERN WHIRLWIND AND HIS NEWFOUND FRIEND ARE HOT ON THE TRAIL ONCE MORE!

THIS CANUSE ON WHEELS WILL GO FASTER THAN ANY HOSSEFLESH! HOLD ON TIGHT, FRIEND!

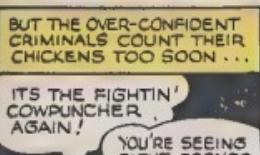
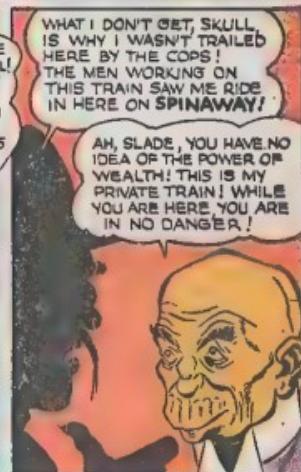
STILL WITH ME, PARDNER? Y-YES, V-VIGILANTE! IF M-MY W-WIFE COULD ONLY S-SEE M-ME N-NOW!



NO DOUBT ABOUT BRONCO SLADE COMING THIS WAY! HE KILLED THESE POLICEMEN! BUT WE'RE GOING TO PUT AN END TO HIS CAREER!

W-WHAT W-WILL H-HE D-DO T-TO US W-WHEN W-WE C-CATCH H-HIM, V-VIGILANTE?





FLAILING FISTS POUND A FIERCE TATTOO AGAINST THE OUTLAW'S FACE...

YOU'RE SLOW ON THE DRAW, BRONCO! BULLETS CAN'T HURT ME SO LONG AS THEY'RE IN YOUR GUN!



YOU'RE FORGETTIN' THAT A BRONCO HAS A POWERFUL KICK!

UGGH!



WHILE THE FURIOUS COMBAT RAGES, TIMID MR. MEEK TACKLES THE TERRIFYING SKULL!

I'M SCARED, BUT I HAVE TO ACT BRAVE, LIKE VIGILANTE! IF MY WIFE COULD ONLY SEE ME NOW!

YOU INSIGNIFICANT RUNT. HOW DARE... UGH!



I KNOCKED HIM OUT! I MUST BE STRONGER THAN I THOUGHT!

TAKE THAT, VIGILANTE!

CRACK!



AS LITTLE MR. MEEK'S EYES FEVERISHLY SEARCH THE SKULL'S LUXURIOS CAR...

I'VE GOT TO HELP VIGILANTE! BUT LAST TIME I TRIED IT, I HURT HIM! MAYBE I BETTER NOT INTERFERE!



I HAVE IT! I'LL PULL THIS CORD AND BRING HELP!



THAT DOES IT! AFTER THAT PUNCH, BRONCO, YOU'RE GOING TO BE MIGHTY TAME!

RARRRR!

AHHHH...



SUMMONED BY THE CLANGOR OF THE ALARM,
THE SKULL'S HENCHMEN RACE TO JOIN THE
FRAY!

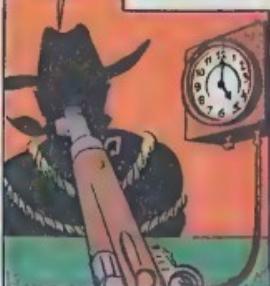
WHILE POOR MR. MEEK STARES IN DISMAY...



THE VIGILANTE FIGHTS VALIANTLY...



SO YOU THOUGHT YOU'D TURN ME OVER TO THE LAW AND HAVE ME SHOT. BUT IT'S YOU WHO'S GOIN' TO BE SHOT, VIGILANTE! WE'RE UNCOUPLIN' THIS CAR, AND LEAVIN' IT BEHIND . . .



the STAR-SPANGLED KID

CHAPTER III

SECOND OF THE SKULL'S SINISTER COMPANIONS IN CRIME IS SPARKLER. CONNOISSEUR OF COSTLY GEMS AND CUNNING MURDERS. HIS SKILLFUL SNARE ENTANGLES TWO OF THE SEVEN SOLDIERS OF VICTORY IN A WEB OF LURKING DEATH. AND IT IS DEATH THAT STANDS GRINNING ONCE MORE AT THE END OF A DANGEROUS TRAIL TO FULFILL A DESTINY ITS DELUSED VICTIM HAD SOUGHT DESPERATELY TO ESCAPE IN HIS SEARCH FOR THE DIAMOND OF DOOM!"



IN THE MAGNIFICENT PEMBERTON VANSON, A YOUNG SCION OF WEALTH ENDURES A BORING LECTURE

SYLVESTER, YOUR LOAFING DAYS ARE AT AN END. FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE EARNING YOUR OWN LIVING!

REALLY, DAD, I NEVER LOAF! I KEEP VERY BUSY RASING TROPICAL FISH!



TROPICAL FISH... BAH! YOU'RE GOING TO GET A JOB THAT PAYS WAGES! HERE ARE THE CLASSIFIED ADS!



PICK OUT ANY JOB YOU WANT, AND GET IT ! BUT FROM NOW ON, YOU RECEIVE NO ALLOWANCE FROM ME ! YOU EITHER WORK OR STARVE !



ER - LABORATORY WORK, FATHER ! I'D LIKE TO HUNT FOR ESCAPED RATS !



BUT AS SYLVESTER'S EYES SCAN THE CLASSIFIED COLUMNS ...

HMM SOUNDS AS IF SOMEONE WANTS TO SEE ME AND STRIPESY ! WE'LL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL ! IT MAY BE A TRAP !!



UPON SECOND THOUGHT, FATHER, I BELIEVE YOU MAY BE RIGHT ! I'LL HAVE DUGAN DRIVE ME OVER TO APPLY FOR A POSITION AT ONCE !

GOOD FOR YOU, SYLVESTER ! WHAT KIND OF WORK DO YOU EXPECT TO DO ??



THAT EVENING .. THE LUXURIOUS PEMBERTON LIMOUSINE SLIPS AT A LEISURELY PACE THROUGH NARROW STREETS...



TIME TO PULL A SWITCHEROO, KID !

A DOUBLE SWITCHEROO PAT ! LET HER RIP !!

STRIPESY TOUCHES A BUTTON .. SECTIONS OF THE CAR WHIRL AND TURN, AND ... THE STAID LIMOUSINE HAS BECOME THE STAR-ROCKET RACER ! BUT INSIDE...

HOW DO I LOOK, KID ??



PERFECT, PAT ! I FEEL LIKE PUTTING A NICKEL IN YOUR TIN CUP !! I HOPE THEY DON'T RECOGNIZE US THROUGH THESE DISGUISES !!

NOT MANY MOMENTS LATER...

THIS IS THE PLACE, KID !!

I HOPE WE GET A LOOK AT THEM BEFORE THEY SPOT ANYTHING IS WRONG ! RING THE DOOR-BELL, PAT !!



THE DOOR SWINGS SLOWLY BACK...

COULD YOU PLEASE HELP
THE BLIND, SIR?

CERTAINLY!
COME RIGHT
IN!

HE LOOKS
HARMLESS
ENOUGH!

IF YOU WAIT HERE A MOMENT
I'LL GET YOU SOME MONEY!

THANK YOU,
SIR!

THAT OLD MAN
IS BEGINNING
TO LOOK
FAMILIAR!

WITH STARTLING SUDDENNESS, A
REMARKABLE TRANSFORMATION
TAKES PLACE.

SURE, KID, IT'S ME! I'VE BEEN
EXPECTING YOU! THOSE DIS-
GUISES DIDN'T FOOL ME - I
HAD ONE ON MYSELF!

SPARKLER!

I GOT A JOB TO PULL OFF FOR THE
SKULL, AND I KNEW I WOULDN'T BE
ABLE TO DO IT WHILE YOU TWO WERE
AROUND! SO I DECIDED TO PUT YOU
OUT OF THE WAY!

AS THE CUNNING CRIMINAL STEPS BACK...

KID, WE'VE PLAYED THE
SPARKLER'S GAME LONG
ENOUGH! LET'S SHOW HIM
ONE OF OUR TRICK PLAYS!
 $23 \times Z$!!

NO, STRIPESY, THOSE
TOMMY-GUNS WOULD
CHOP US DOWN IN
NO TIME!



SAY THE WORD, SPARKLER, AND I'LL DRILL
YOUR INITIALS IN 'EM WITH LEO SLUGS!!

NO, I'VE GOT A BETTER
IDEA! THEY'RE GOING TO
DIE THE WAY I WAS TO
BE EXECUTED... IN A
LETHAL CHAMBER



THE GALLANT DUO ARE FORCED TO ENTER
A LARGE STEEL-BARRED CAGE!

THIS ROOM IS GOING
TO BE SEALED SO THAT
NO FRESH AIR CAN GET
IN! THE CANDLES WILL
BURN UP THE OXYGEN...
AND YOU'LL CHOKE TO
DEATH!!

LET ME GET MY
HANDS ON YOU...
AND WE'LL SEE
WHO DOES THE
CHOKING!



WHEN I WAS KID, I USED TO
KILL MICE THE SAME WAY...PUT
'EM UNDER A GLASS JAR AND
LIGHT A CANDLE ! SO LONG ...
RATS !

AS THE CANDLES BURN, FOUL CHOKING AIR FILLS
THE STUFFY ROOM !

YEAH---AND JUST
WHEN WE GOT A
LEAD ! TAKE A LOOK
AT THIS PAPER !
PICKED OUT OF
SPARKLER'S POCKET
WHILE HE WAS NEAR
THE BARS AND I WAS
SEARCHING FOR A
KEY !

IT'S A MAP OF THE KIMBERLY MANSION !
AND MRS. KIMBERLEY OWNS THE FAMOUS
KORAM DIAMOND THAT LEAVES A TRAIL
OF DEATH BEHIND IT !

THAT'S WHAT HE'S GOTTA DO
FOR THE SKULL, HUH ? WE COULD
STOP HIM IF WE COULD GET
OUTA HERE ! THINK, KID, THINK !

THE STAR- SPANGLED KID'S BRAIN STARTS
CLICKING, AND ...

GOOD BOY ! SPARKLER FORGOT
THAT WE COULD MOVE THIS
THING AROUND FROM THE
INSIDE !

WE'VE GOT
TO GET TO THAT
WINDOW ! A LITTLE
MORE ACTION !

AH, FRESH AIR ! IT SMELLS
FUNNY !

YOU'LL GET USED TO IT
AFTER A WHILE, KID !
BUT HOW DO WE GET
OUT OF HERE NOW ?

IF WE CAN TURN
THIS CAGE OVER
AGAIN TOWARD
THOSE CANDLES,
WE CAN DO THE
TRICK !

SECONDS LATER ...

THESE CANDLES
COME IN 'HANDY !
THE HEAT WEAKENS
THE STEEL ENOUGH SO
THAT YOU CAN BEND
THE BARS ! COME
ON, STRIPESY !

UGH...
THEY'RE
GIVING
WAY... BUT IT'S
A TOUGH
JOB !

SLIPPING THROUGH THE BARS,
THE ALL-AMERICAN DUO SPEEDS
FOR THE KIMBERLY MANSION!

KID, HERE'S WHERE
WE PLAY A RETURN
ENGAGEMENT WITH
SPARKLER! I'M GONNA
MAKE HIM SEE PIN
WHEELS IN FRONT
OF HIS EYES!

HOW'S HE
GOING TO STEAL
THAT DIAMOND,
THOUGH MRS. KIM-
BERLY IS HAVING
A PARTY TONIGHT,
AND THE PLACE IS
FULL OF GUARDS?
I'M GOING AS A
GUEST! SWITCHEROO!

THE STAR-ROCKET RACER BECOMES A STAI
LIMOUSINE ONCE MORE! AND SOON...

SYLVESTER, DEAR,
YOU SAID YOU WEREN'T
COMING! I'M SO GLAD
YOU CHANGED YOUR
MIND!

OH, I THOUGHT I
MIGHT GET A
CHANGE OF AT-
MOSPHERE,
MRS. KIMBERLY!
(WONDER WHEN
AND HOW SPARKLER
IS GOING TO SHOW UP?)

THE YOUNG SCION OF WEALTH PRE-
TENDS TO TAKE PART IN THE
FESTIVITIES!

YOU MUST ADMIRE
MRS. KIMBERLY VERY
MUCH, SYLVESTER!
YOU HARDLY EVER
TAKE YOUR
EYES OFF
HER!

ER-YES-I
THINK SHE'S
VERY BRIGHT!
SHE POSITIVELY
GLITTERS!(SHE'S
NOT WEARING
THE FATAL
KORAM DIAMOND!
IT MUST BE IN
THE SAFE
UPSTAIRS!)

AT THAT MOMENT, OUTSIDE THE HOUSE...

THERE'S SHOOTING GOING ON!
COME ON, BOYS, WELL
GET THOSE CROOKS!

CRACK!
BANG!
CLANK!

FIRECRACKERS!
WE'VE BEEN FOOLED!



SPARKLER, AT LAST!
SO ALL THAT NOISE
WAS JUST A TRICK
TO LURE THE GUARDS
AWAY! HERE'S
WHERE THE FUN
BEGINS!

MEANWHILE BACK
AT THE HOUSE...
OUT OF MY WAY,
FROZEN-FACE!

KEEP QUIET, EVERYBODY AND
YOU WON'T GET HURT! LET OUT
A PEEP AND WE'LL BUY A
COFFIN!

OH, DEAR, MY KNEES
ARE TREMBLING!!
I MUST REST!

DON'T BE SUCH A
COWARD, SYLVESTER!
THEY WON'T HURT YOU!

ONLY THIS WALL KEEPS ME UP ! (I'VE GOT TO DOUSE THOSE LIGHTS AND PULL A SWITCHEROO !)

SUDEN BLACKNESS EN-
VELOPS THE SCENE OF
REVELRY !

CLICK ! HEY, WHO THREW THAT SWITCH ?

(I'VE GOT TO GET TOGETHER WITH PATI) SIGNAL 94M !

HELP !! THE ROOF'S CAVIN' IN !!

IN A MINUTE, THE FLOOR'S GOING TO STAND UP AND HIT YOU, CHUM ! TAKE A REST !

4PSIN...

YOU CALL THE PLAYS, KID... I'LL KNOCK THEM FOR A GOAL !

SUDDENLY... THE DAZZLING GLEAM OF LIGHTS ONCE MORE ILLUMINATES THE TURBULENT SCENE.

DO YOU SEE THE SAME THING I DON'T SEE, KID ?

HE'S AFTER THE KORAM DIAMOND UP-STAIRS, STRIPESY !

HEY, YOU GUYS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD !!

WE PACK A SOLID PUNCH FOR GHOSTS, SPARKLER !

THAT ONE TO THE JAW WAS A GEM, SPARKLER ! WITHOUT A FLAW !

AND HERE'S A LITTLE DOO-DAD THAT GIVES OFF STARS !

PC - SAFE

SUDDENLY...

KID, THEY'VE PULLED
YOUR TRICK OF SWITCH-
ING OUT THE LIGHTS !



WHEN THE LIGHTS GO ON
ONCE MORE...

THEY'RE GONE ! BUT
THEY DIDN'T GET THE
KORAM DIAMOND !



SPARKLER MAY KNOW THAT
DIAMOND BRINGS BAD LUCK,
BUT HE'S GOT TO GET IT
FOR THE SKULL, WHOEVER
HE IS ! SO WE'LL MAKE
SURE WE KNOW WHEN
SPARKLER RETURNS !



NIGHTS LATER ... A ROW OF SINISTER
FIGURES STEALS ALONG A PATH LEADING
TO THE KIMBERLY MANSION !

THIS TIME THE PLACE
WILL BE QUIET ! STRIPESY
AND THE KID WON'T BE
AROUND TO BUTT IN,
SPARKLER !



BUT A STEALTHY
FOOTSTEP FALLS
UPON A ROCK
EMBEDDED IN
THE PATH.



... AND THE MOMENTARY
PRESSURE SETS OFF AN
ALARM WHICH REGISTERS
ON A DISTANT RADIO SET...

THAT ALARM ! SPARKLER
IS UP TO HIS DIRTY WORK
AGAIN ! I'VE GOT TO STOP
HIM !



... I'M SORRY, GIRLS, I'LL HAVE
TO RETURN AND CONTINUE
MY STUDIES IN TROPICAL
FISH ! I KNOW I'M BEING
IMPOLITE, BUT I CAN'T
HELP IT !



A FEW SECONDS LATER...

I NEVER
MET ANY-
ONE SO
RUDE IN
MY LIFE !

IMAGINE ANY
ONE PREFER-
RING TO STUDY
TROPICAL FISH
RATHER THAN
SEEING THE
OPERA WITH
US !



AND STILL LATER...

STEP ON IT, PAT ! WE'VE
GOT TO HAND SPARKLER
THAT SURPRISE !



SURE, KID ! BUT I'M
WARNING YOU THOSE
GIRLS WILL NEVER
HAVE ANY USE FOR
SYLVESTER PEMBERTON
AFTER THIS !

THE STAR-ROCKET RACER RISES INTO THE AIR,
TO HOVER OVER THE KIMBERLY MANSION!

THEY'RE TRYING TO
GET IN THROUGH A
WINDOW

WELL SPOIL THEIR
GAME AND LAND ON
THE ROOF, STRIPESY!

THE ROCKET-RACER COMES TO REST ON THE
ROOF...AND TWIN THUNDERBOLTS STRIKE
TERRIFYINGLY AT THE THUGS!

THEY'RE A BUNCH OF
WALLFLOWERS, STRIPESY!

THE CLINGING
IVY TYPE!



MORE THE POISON MY KIND, 2
STRIPESY! BUT I CAN DISH
OUT A LITTLE POISON MYSELF!



I KNOW THE KIND YOU
MEAN, KID! I JUST HANDED
THIS FELLOW A FISTFUL
OF IT!!



OVERWHELMED BY THE SHOCK
OF SURPRISE, MOST OF THE
MOBSTERS MEKKY SURRENDER!

SPARKLER ISN'T HERE, KID! THE
REST ARE SMALL FRY...WHAT
DO WE DO? TURN THEM OVER
TO THE POLICE?



RIGHT, STRIPESY,
AND THEN WE GO
AFTER SPARKLER!

AT THAT MOMENT... STRIPESY'S EAGLE EYES
PICK OUT A PHANTOM-LIKE FIGURE FLITTING
ACROSS THE PATH...



THERE HE IS, KID! HE
GOT AWAY WHILE WE WERE
TAKING CARE OF HIS GANG!

BUT IN THE
BLACKNESS OF NIGHT,
THE CRIME
CHIEFTAIN
ELUDES HIS
PERSUER



I CAN'T SEE HIM ANY
MORE! IT'S TOO DARK
WE'LL HAVE A TOUGH
TIME NOW TRYING
TO FIND HIM!

DAWN BREAKS... AND A HARRIED HOODLUM HESITATES...

NOW THE KID KNOWS I WANT THE KORAM DIAMOND, AND HE'LL KEEP A WATCH ON IT! I'VE FAILED THE SKULL! HE'LL BE AFTER ME NOW, AS WELL AS THE POLICE!



THAT DIAMOND BROUGHT ME BAD LUCK ALREADY. I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THE COUNTRY! IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE TO SAVE MY LIFE! I'LL GET INTO ONE OF THOSE SHIPS



THUS... A FEW HOURS LATER...

SAFE AT LAST! NOBODY WILL FIND ME HERE.

EVERYBODY'S OFF THE SHIP, CAPTAIN!



MEANWHILE... A BAFFLED DUO SEEKS THE COWERING CRIMINAL...

I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE COULD HAVE GOT TO, KID! THE MEN WE CAPTURED REVEALED HIS USUAL HANGOUT, AND HE ISN'T THERE!

WE'LL TAKE A LOOK AT THOSE SHIPS DOWN AT THE WATERFRONT! MAYBE HE'S TRYING TO GET OUT OF THE COUNTRY!



THERE'S A LOT OF HIDING PLACES ON THESE OLD SHIPS!



IF HE'S STOWED AWAY, WE MAY NEVER FIND HIM! BUT WE'LL KEEP UP THE SEARCH, ANYWAY!

AS A DISAPPOINTING DAY DRAWS TO A CLOSE...

WE'VE VISITED EVERY SHIP IN THE HARBOR, EXCEPT THE ONE BEING FUMIGATED AND THERE ISN'T A SIGN OF SPARKLER!

WAIT! WHAT'S THAT... OVER THERE BY THE STEAMER?



IT'S SPARKLER! AND HE'S DEAD! THE KORAM DIAMOND BROUGHT HIM BAD LUCK AFTER ALL!

THAT SHIP WAS BEING FUMIGATED TO KILL RATS! THE POISON FUMES KILLED HIM!



STRANGE! SPARKLER DIED AS HE WAS CONDEMNED TO DIE... BY POISON GAS IN A LETHAL CHAMBER. WHILE HE THOUGHT HE WAS RUNNING AWAY FROM HIS FATE... HE RAN TO MEET IT!



BUT WE STILL GOT TO GET THE MAN BEHIND SPARKLER... THE SKULL!

THE COMRADES IN COMBAT EVEN UP THE SCORE FOR THE GALLANT LEGIONNAIRES... BUT WILL THE VIGILANTE ESCAPE FROM THE DESPERADO? CAN THE SEVEN SOLDIERS OF VICTORY MEET THE THREAT OF THE SINISTER SKULL... READ ON TO FIND THE SOLUTION TO THIS MAZE OF DEATH!

THE

THE CRIMSON AVENGER



CHAPTER II

CRUEL AND RUTHLESS AS DEATH ITSELF, POWERFUL AS THE BRUTE BOVINE BEAST WHOSE NAME HE BEARS. SUCH IS BULL-CORBIN WHO SEEKS A PRIZE FOR WHICH MEN HAVE TOILED THROUGH THE CENTURES IN VAN' MURDER FOLLOWS MURDER ALONG THE BRIGAND BULLY'S MENACING TRAIL UNTIL SUCCESS CROWNS HIS CAREER OF CRIME. AND THEN THE CRIMSON AVENGER TAKES A HAND THAT FORCES THE DOOMED DESPERADO TO SEEK SAFETY IN FLIGHT TO FIND HIS "DESTINY AMONG THE STARS!"

STORMING THROUGH SPACE A STRANGE SHIP HURLETS AT INCREDIBLE SPEED FROM THE MOON TO THE EARTH .



WITHIN THE SHIP, DR. EDWARD GRIMES, ITS SOLITARY PASSENGER, GUIDES ITS COURSE ...

EVERYBODY LAUGHED AT ME, BUT ALL THE SAME, THE SHIP IS A SUCCESS! I'M THE FIRST HUMAN BEING TO SET FOOT ON THE MOON! NOW TO RETURN HOME AND MAKE A FEW CHANGES

ABOVE THE WEIRD MAMMOTH CAVES OF KENTUCKY, A STONE ROOF GAPES OPEN AT THE VESSEL'S APPROACH ... AND THE SHIP NESTLES GENTLY WITHIN A VAST VAULT ...

SOON, I'LL MAKE ANOTHER TRIP, A LONGER ONE THIS TIME! I'LL STOCK THE SHIP WITH FOOD, AND EVERYTHING ELSE I NEED!

BUT IN THE SHADOWS OF THE COLOSSAL CAVE ...

THIS JOB THE SKULL GAVE ME IS EASY! THIS GUY DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO DEFEND HIMSELF!

OKAY, PAL! YOU'VE BEEN TO THE MOON! NOW TAKE A LOOK AT SOME STARS!

AHHH

THESE CONTROLS LOOK COMPLICATED! THE SKULL DIDN'T TELL ME HOW TO WORK IT ... LET ME SEE, WHICH BUTTON DO I PUSH FIRST?

MEANWHILE, HUNDREDS OF MILES AWAY, EDITOR LEE TRAVIS SCANS A NEWS FLASH...

SO CORBIN HAS BEEN SEEN IN KENTUCKY, PROWLING ABOUT MAMMOTH CAVES! TOO BAD THE POLICE COULDN'T PICK HIM UP!

HE WAS TOO TRICKY FOR THEM! THEY LOST HIS TRAIL!

SOUNDS LIKE A JOB FOR ME AND WING! WE'D BETTER ROUND UP CORBIN BEFORE HE DOES MORE DAMAGE!

THE POST

HOURS LATER ... IN A HUGE AIRLINER ...

I WONDER WHAT CORBIN IS DOING IN KENTUCKY ? I'VE HEARD REPORTS OF ROCKET SHIP EXPERIMENTS THERE !

MAYBE CORBIN TRY ESCAPE FROM POLICE, GO TO MOON !

TWO PASSENGERS DROP OFF AT AN UN-SCHEDULED STOP ...

THERE ARE MANY ENTRANCES TO THE CAVES BELOW US ! IF CORBIN HID IN THEM, WE'LL NEVER FIND HIM !

BATS HIDE IN CAVES ! CORBIN NO BATS ... NOT YET !

YES, STRANGER, IT'S EASY TO GET LOST IN MAMMOTH CAVE ! I WOULDN'T ENTER IT WITHOUT A GUIDE, IF I WERE YOU !

I DON'T THINK BULL CORBIN HAS A GUIDE ! HOW DOES HE MANAGE NOT TO GET LOST ?

CORBIN MUST HAVE A LANDMARK ! I THINK, WING, WE'LL TAKE A LOOK AT THE PLACE WHERE THOSE ROCKET SHIP EXPERIMENTS ARE BEING CARRIED OUT !

WAIT TILL FOURTH OF JULY, SEE PLenty OF LOCKETS !

AS THE CRIMSON CRIME-CRUSHER AND HIS FAITHFUL ALLY DRAW NEAR, A BAFFLED BANDIT FINDS HIMSELF BALKED BY THE COMPLEXITIES OF SCIENCE !

NO MATTER WHAT I DO, I CAN'T START THIS SHIP ! LUCKY I DIDN'T KILL GRIMES ! I'LL REVIVE HIM, AND HAVE HIM HANDLE THE CONTROLS FOR ME !

WHAT HAPPENED ? WHO ARE YOU ?

NEVER MIND WHO I AM ! YOU'LL SHOW ME HOW TO OPERATE THAT SHIP... OR ELSE !

VERY WELL ! FIRST, YOU MUST CLEAR THE ROCKET CHAMBERS ! THEN YOU SWITCH ON THE REAR ROCKETS FIRST !

NOW YOU'RE TALKING, BUDDY ! GO ON !

BUT THE LESSON IN ROCKET-OPERATION IS RUDELY INTERRUPTED !

MORE VISITORS ! AND I THOUGHT I WOULD HAVE PERFECT SOLITUDE IN THESE CAVES !

WE JUST DROPPED IN TO THROW THE BULL !

THE RUGGED RUFFIAN, ROARING WITH RAGE, DEMONSTRATES THE BEAST-LIKE POWER OF HIS MIGHTY MUSCLES !

HERE'S WHERE THE BULL DOES SOME THROWING OF HIS OWN !

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN WHAT WOULD HAPPEN WHEN A BULL SEES RED !

I DON'T NEED ANY ROCKETS TO SEND YOU FLYING, AVENGER !

OOPS ! I COULD USE ANOTHER PARACHUTE !

AH, WHO ! BIG BRUISER TOO STRONG FOR MIST' CLIMSON !

SO YOU'RE COMIN' BACK FOR MORE ? YOU AND YOUR PAL ARE GOING A LONG WAY THIS TIME !

I'LL HANDLE YOU ALONE, BULL ! HERE'S WHERE I TEACH YOU YOU'RE ONLY A RACKETEER, NOT A ROCKETEER !

AND NOW THE BULL'S BRUTE BRAWN PROVES HELPLESS BEFORE SKILLFUL SILENCE AS THE CRIMSON CRIME-CRUSHER'S FISTS BEAT OUT A DEVASTATING TATTOO !

THIS PROVES THAT MY FIST CAN BE IN FOUR PLACES AT ONCE BULL... AND MAKE ALL OF THEM HURT !

IF I COULD ONLY LAY MY HANDS ON YOU...

WHEN I HIT YOU THIS TIME, BULL, THERE'S GOING TO BE A MAMMOTH CAVE-IN !

STOP, OR---

I'LL SHOOT !

JUST WHEN I HAD HIM ON THE POINT OF A KNOCK-OUT !

THIS GUY GRIMES IS WHACKY ! HE'S USIN' THE GUN I HIT HIM WITH... TO HELP ME ! I'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE HE COMES TO HIS SENSES !

IF YOU HIT HIM AGAIN, YOU'LL KNOCK HIM AGAINST THE INSTRUMENT PANEL, AND RUIN THE ROCKET SHIP! I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN!

BUT THIS MAN IS A DANGEROUS MURDERER!

THE BURLY BANDIT SEIZES THE OPPORTUNITY TO ESCAPE.

OUT OF MY WAY, BUDDY!

HE'S GETTING AWAY! HE'LL LOSE HIMSELF IN THE CAVE!

HOURS LATER... AFTER A LONG SEARCH THROUGH GLOOMY TUNNELS...

IT'S NO USE, WING. THERE'RE HUNDREDS OF MILES OF TUNNELS IN THESE CAVES! A MAN COULD HIDE OUT HERE FOR YEARS!

BUT BULL NOT GO FAR FROM LOCKET SHIP, MIST CLIMSON!

SUDDENLY... THERE IS THE SCRAPE OF LEATHER-SHOED FEET AGAINST HARD ROCK...

I HEAR NOISE FEW FEET AHEAD! MAYBE WE FIND BULL, AFTER ALL!

IF WE DO, WE WON'T LET HIM ESCAPE THIS TIME!

BIG FOOTPRINT IN DUST MUST BE BULL!

FINDING THAT IS REAL COINCIDENCE!

COINCIDENCE? LITTLE DOES THE AVENGER KNOW...

MAYBE WE CATCH BULL BY SURPRISE, MIST CLIMSON!

HA! THE AVENGER DOESN'T REALIZE I LEFT THAT FOOTPRINT TO DRAW HIM INTO A TRAP! JUST A FEW FEET MORE...

SUDDENLY THERE IS THE RENDING ROAR OF EXPLODING DYNAMITE!

CAVES EXPLODE! NO WAY TO GET OUT!

THAT FIXES THE AVENGER! NOW TO GET THE ROCKET SHIP AGAIN... AND THIS TIME I'LL KNOW HOW TO HANDLE IT!

MOMENTS LATER...



BUT NOW THE GREED FOR GOLD DANGLES ITS GLITTERING LURE BEFORE THE GRASPING MIND OF THE MURDEROUS GANGSTER.

THE SKULL WANTS THIS SHIP, AND I'M WILLING TO TURN IT OVER TO HIM... BUT I'LL HAVE TO GET PAID ! MONEY MEANS NOTHING TO THE SKULL... I'LL ASK FOR A MILLION DOLLARS !

LATER... THE SKULL IN HIS PALATIAL RETREAT RECEIVES A TELEGRAM...



I SHALL USE MY MILLIONS TO PUNISH CORBIN, NOT TO REWARD HIM !

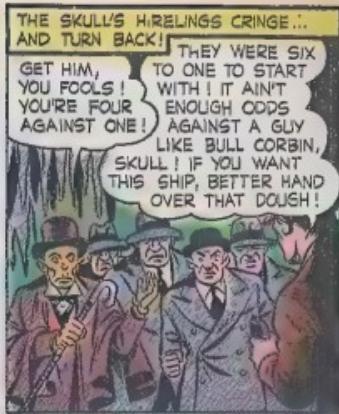


AS IN THE WORLD ABOVE, DAY DRAWS TO A CLOSE. THE SKULL AND THE HARDENED HOODLUM MEET IN THE CAVERNS OF ETERNAL GLOOM !



THE MONEY MEANS NOTHING TO ME, BUT I DON'T LIKE BEING DOUBLE-CROSSED ! THE WHOLE MILLION WILL GO TO THOSE WHO PUNISH YOU !

YEAH ? THOSE GUYS AINT GONNA LIVE LONG, SKULL !



NOW TO SEE ABOUT THAT ROCKET-SHIP AGAIN ! BUT IT MAY BE ALREADY TOO LATE ! CORBIN MAY HAVE STOLEN IT AND LEFT !



AT THE ROCKET-SHIP CAVE, THE SKULL AND BULL CORBIN HAVE COME TO AN AGREEMENT!

OKAY, SKULL, WE COMPROMISE ! THE SHIP IS YOURS... AND A HALF MILLION DOLLARS IS MINE !



NO COUNT CHICKENS BEFORE HATCHED, PLISS !

I THOUGHT I HAD THESE FELLOWS BOTTLED UP !



WE GOT OUT THROUGH THE SECOND STORY ! HERE'S SOME MORE OF THE SAME STUFF YOU GOT BEFORE, CORBIN

YOUR PUNCHES DON'T HURT ME AVENGER !



THIS LOOK LIKE ICICLE, BUT HOT STUFF !

BANG



HEVYY !!

EXCUSE, PLISS ! WING MEAN TO DO...



LIKE THIS !

OW, THAT THING IS SHARP !



THE AVENGER'S SKILLED FISTS CONTINUE TO POUND THE MASSIVE-MUSCLED MURDERER INTO SUBMISSION !

YOU'VE SEEN A COUPLE OF EXPLOSIONS TODAY... IN A MINUTE YOU'LL FEEL ONE ON THE JAW !

AHHH !

I'VE GOT THE DOUGH... I'M NOT GONNA STAY TO TAKE A LICKING JUST TO HELP THE SKULL !



THE DOUBLY-TREACHEROUS THUG TURNS TO SEEK HIS OWN SAFETY !

NOW'S MY CHANCE FOR A GETAWAY !

THIS SMALL-FRY HOODLUM HAS PICKED A BAD TIME TO PRACTICE SOMERSAULTS !

SO LONG, AVENGER ! TRY THE OTHER DOOR, WING ! TOO BAD YOU CAN'T COME WITH ME !

I FLY MIST CLIMSON !



WITH THE ROAR OF ROCKETS, THE SHIP RISES INTO THE AIR !

COME ALONG, AVENGER, YOU'LL GET A SWELL RIDE !

LET GO WING, BEFORE WE GO UP TOO FAR !



AH, WOE, BULL GET AWAY ! AND BY

THE TIME WE GET BACK TO THE CAVE, THE SKULL WILL BE GONE ! NEVER MIND, WING, BULL CORBIN WILL HAVE TO LAND AGAIN... AND NEXT TIME WE'LL

BUT WITHIN THE RACING VESSEL ... BULL CORBIN GLOATS AT HIS GOOD FORTUNE !

I'VE GOT A HALF-MILLION DOLLARS ! I'M RICH...AND FREE ! I'LL LAND THIS SHIP, DISAPPEAR, AND THEN I'LL BE ABLE TO ENJOY LIFE !



BUT AS THE TRIUMPHANT THUG PULLS A CONTROL LEVER ...

THE SHIP WON'T TURN ! GRIMES MUST HAVE GIVEN ME THE WRONG DIRECTIONS ! I CAN'T GET BACK TO EARTH !

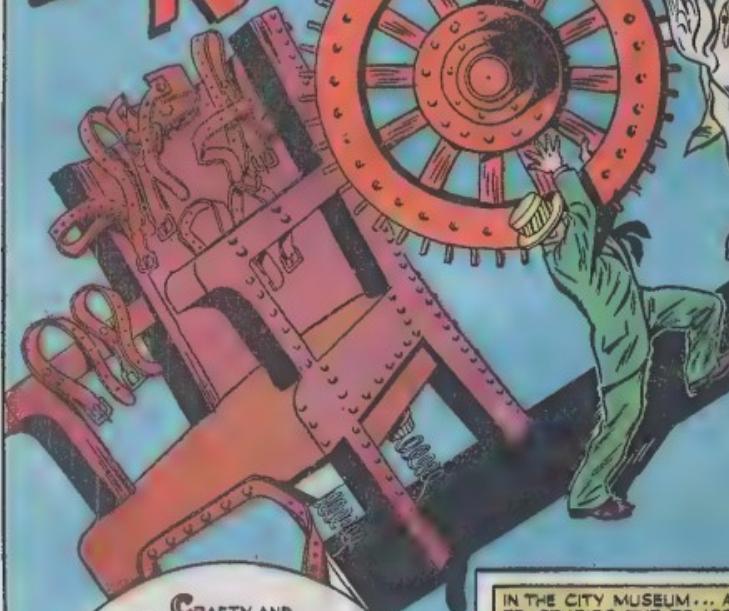


TO SOLITARY CONFINEMENT WAS BULL CORBIN CONDEMED... AND SOLITARY CONFINEMENT IS HIS DESTINY ! FATED TO BE ALONE FOREVER, HE SPEEDS ON TOWARD THE STARS ...



ONCE MORE JUSTICE HAS TRIUMPHED ! BUT MEANWHILE, THE ARCH-VILLAIN HAS ESCAPED : THE SKULL REMAINS FREE TO USE THE POWER OF HIS WEALTH AND EVIL !

THE SHINING KNIGHT



CHAPTER
5

CRAFTY AND CUNNING AS A CORNERED RAT, MATT GREIDER TRIES TO SHUN THE SHINING KNIGHT... AND FINDS HIMSELF SQUARELY ATHWART THE CHIVALROUS CHAMPION'S STERN PATH! CHANCE PUTS THE SHINING KNIGHT, BEREFT OF GLISTENING SWORD AND GLEAMING LANCE, WITHIN THE MENACING MURDERER'S GREEDY POWER... AND ONLY HIS OWN NIMBLE WITS AND VALIANT HEART CAN CARVE A PATH TO FREEDOM AND PUT AN END TO THE SINISTER CRIME-STUDDED CAREER OF THE MONSTER WHO TRIES TO CHEAT JUSTICE AND SEEKS TO SLAY A

"KNIGHT WITHOUT ARMOR"

IN THE CITY MUSEUM... AN ESCAPED MURDERER STUDIES THE RELICS OF THE PAST!

THE SKULL WANTS ME TO STEAL THE SHINING KNIGHT'S COAT OF MAIL! BUT I'VE TANGLED WITH THE KNIGHT BEFORE, AND ONCE IS ENOUGH!



I'LL STEAL SOME ORDINARY ARMOR FROM THIS MUSEUM, AND CLAIM IT'S THE KNIGHT'S! THE SKULL WON'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE!

JUST TO MAKE SURE NOBODY KNOWS WHY I'M STEALING THE ARMOR, I'LL STEAL A LOT OF OTHER VALUABLE STUFF WITH IT!

SUPPLIED WITH MONEY BY THE SKULL, THE CUNNING CRIMINAL HIRES A GROUP OF GANGSTERS!

STICK WITH ME, BOYS, AND YOU'LL MAKE ENOUGH DOUGH TO PUT YOU ALL ON EASY STREET!

PAY US RIGHT, BOSS, AND WE'LL TACKLE ANYBODY, YOU SAY!

NEXT DAY... TWO LARGE MOVING VANS DRAW UP BEFORE THE CITY MUSEUM...

THIS IS GONNA BE AN EASY JOB! JUST ACT LIKE YOU GOT A RIGHT TO TAKE EVERYTHING!

YOU SURE FIGURED OUT A SLICK ONE THIS TIME!

THE HOODLUM LEADER BOLDLY APPROACHES THE DIRECTOR OF THE MUSEUM ...

HERE'S AN ORDER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE MUSEUM TELLIN' US TO MOVE A LOT OF VALUABLE STUFF TO A STOREHOUSE! IT'S A PRECAUTION IN CASE OF AN A.R. RAID!

STRANGE! HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING TO ME ABOUT IT!



HOWEVER, THIS IS HIS SIGNATURE, SO IT MUST BE ALL RIGHT! GO RIGHT AHEAD!



BILL THE PENMAN FORGED THAT SIGNATURE RIGHT! NOW ALL WE GOTTA DO IS TAKE THE STUFF!

A FEW MOMENTS LATER... THE THIEVES BEGIN TO REMOVE THE MUSEUM'S CHOICEST TREASURES!

THIS STUFF IS WORTH A HUNDRED GRAND! AND THE OLD GUY HANDS IT RIGHT OVER TO US!



WHILE THE THUG LEADER...

TAKE THAT ALONG, TOO!

OKAY, BOSS, YOU GIVE
THE ORDERS!

BUT MEANWHILE ... JUSTIN, WHO HIDES HIS IDENTITY AS THE SHINING KNIGHT BEHIND THE GLUSE OF ASSISTANT TO THE CURATOR, PROFESSOR MORESBY, APPROACHES THE MUSEUM ...

GREAT SCOTT, PROFESSOR,
THEY'RE REMOVING ALL THE
MUSEUM'S MOST VALUABLE
POSSESSIONS !

I DON'T UNDERSTAND
IT MYSELF, JUSTIN !

IT'S ALL RIGHT, SIR. THEY'VE
GOT PERMISSION ! THEY'RE
JUST MOVING THOSE VALUABLES
TO A SAFE PLACE !

THEY WERE SAFE RIGHT
HERE !

LET US NOT
QUESTION THE
WISDOM OF OUR
SUPERIORS.
JUSTIN !

AT THAT MOMENT ...

THIS FINISHES THE JOB !
NOW WE'D BETTER SCRAM !

IT'S MATT GREIDER,
THE ESCAPED MURDERER.
HE'S THE ONE BEHIND
ALL THIS !

EXCUSE ME, PROFESSOR
MORESBY, THE SHINING
KNIGHT HAS SOME
WORK TO DO !

SWIFT SECONDS LATER, AT THE
STALL BENEATH THE MUSEUM
WHERE WINGED VICTORY, HIS
MAGIC STEED IS HIDDEN...

AH, VICTORY, WE RIDE FORTH
ONCE MORE TO FOIL A BASE
VARLET'S FOUL PLAN !

HASTE THEE, MY BRAVE
STEED, ERE THE TREACHEROUS
VILLAINS HIE THEM
TO SAFETY !

SOARING HIGH ABOVE THE MUSEUM, THE CHIVALROUS
KNIGHT SIGHTS THE SPEEDING SCOUNDRELS ...

AH, THERE THEY ARE ! NO DOUBT
THEY DEEM THEMSELVES SAFE
FROM PURSUIT !

BOSS, WE GOTTA
HAND IT TO YOU
FOR FIGURIN' OUT
AN EASY WAY TO
GET RICH !

WINGED VICTORY SWOOPS DOWN LIKE AN EAGLE STRIKING AT ITS PREY!

I TRIED TO STAY AWAY FROM THE SHINING KNIGHT, BUT HE FOLLOWED ME, ANYWAY! WHERE DID HE COME FROM?

TURN BACK, IGNORABLE VARLETS AND RETURN YOUR ILL-GOTTEN GAINS!

RUN HIM DOWN! HIS ARMOR CAN TURN BULLETS, BUT THE WEIGHT OF THIS TRUCK WILL CRUSH BOTH HIM AND HIS HORSE!

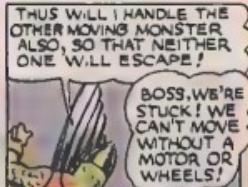
I'M STEPPIN' ON THE GAS, BOSS!



BUT THE KNIGHT'S SWORD, POSSESSED OF MAGIC POWERS BY VIRTUE OF ANCIENT MERLIN'S WIZARDRY, SHEARS THROUGH METAL AS IF IT WERE CHEESE!

VILE EVILDOERS, WHEN I COMMAND THEE TO STOP, I JEST NOT!

THUS WILL I HANDLE THE OTHER MOVING MONSTER ALSO, SO THAT NEITHER ONE WILL ESCAPE!



THE PANIC STRICKEN HOODLUMS SCATTER LIKE FLEEING RATS!

THESE VERMIN FLEE SO FAST, I SHALL BE HARD PUT TO SEIZE THEM ALL!



HEY, THAT THING IS CHOKIN' ME!

IF THOU HAD THY DESERTS, THOU ROGUE, THOU WOULDST BE CHOKED BY A HEMPEN ROPE!



LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ALL GETTIN' TOGETHER AGAIN!

LIE THERE, VILLAINS, WHILE I SEEK THY MURDEROUS MASTER!



BUT THE FEARFUL FELON IS
NOWHERE TO BE FOUND!

THE MISCREANT HAS ESCAPED!
NOW MUST I TURN THE OTHER
EVILDOERS OVER TO THOSE WHO
WILL DEAL WITH THEM LAWFULY!



LATER... AFTER THE POLICE
HAVE REMOVED THE CAP-
TURED THUGS ...

THIS MUD ALMOST CHOKED
ME, AND EVERY TIME I LIFTED
MY HEAD TO BREATHE, I WAS
AFRAID THE KNIGHT WOULD
SEE ME! BUT HE'S GONE
NOW, AND I'LL HAVE TO FIND
A HIDE-OUT!



THAT NIGHT... AT A HUGE
POWER STATION ...

MY BROTHER IS SUPERINTENDENT
OF THIS STATION! HE'S CHANGED
HIS NAME SO NOBODY KNOWS
WE'RE RELATED! I'LL MAKE
HIM TAKE CARE OF ME!



YOU'RE A THIEF AND A MURDERER!
THE POLICE ARE AFTER YOU AT THIS
MINUTE! I'LL HAVE NOTHING TO DO
WITH YOU!

OKAY, BUT IF I'M CAUGHT...
I'LL SAY YOU HID ME!
THEY'LL SEND YOU TO
JAIL, TOO!

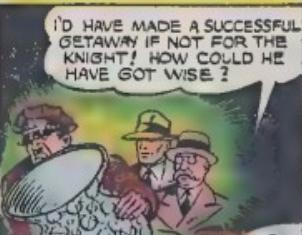


LET ME HIDE HERE FOR A
COUPLE OF DAYS, AND I'LL
CLEAR OUT AND NEVER
BOTHER YOU AGAIN!

ALL RIGHT... BUT JUST
FOR A COUPLE OF
DAYS! WE'VE GOT SOME
REPAIRS TO DO - I'LL
HAVE TO HOLD THINGS
UP UNTIL THEN!



HIDDEN IN THE HUGE STATION, THE
DESPERATE CRIMINAL WOOS
SLEEP IN VAIN! THE ROAR OF
RUSHING WATER SENDS
STRANGE THOUGHTS TUMBLING
THROUGH HIS HEAD!



THAT YOUNG MAN WITH PROFESSOR
MORESBY SAW ME AND DUCKED!
MAYBE HE'S THE ONE THAT WARNED
THE SHINING KNIGHT!



OR MAYBE
HE'S THE
SHINING
KNIGHT
HIMSELF?
I'M GOING TO
HIRE SOME
MORE CROOKS
TO HELP ME,
THEN FIND HIM,
AND SEE! I'LL
PAY HIM BACK
FOR STOPPING
MY SCHEME -
AND -MAYBE -
GET WHAT THE
SKULL WANTS
AFTER ALL!



NEXT DAY... AS NIGHT IS FALLING...

YOU SUCCEEDED IN RECOVERING EVERYTHING, JUSTIN! IF NOT FOR YOU, THE MUSEUM WOULD HAVE SUFFERED A TERRIBLE LOSS!

IT'S JUST PART OF THE DEBT I OWE YOU PROFESSOR MORESBY.

SUDDENLY...

THERE THEY ARE, BOYS! THEY'RE THE ONES I HIRED YOU TO GET!

TAKE IT EASY. WE ALWAYS DO OUR JOB RIGHT!



ENRAGED BY HIS CAPTIVE'S SILENCE,
THE HOMICIDAL HOODLUM DEVISES
A DEADLY SCHEME OF REVENGE!

MAYBE A LITTLE DUCKIN'
WILL HELP YOU MAKE
UP YOUR MIND!

MY MIND'S ALREADY
MADE UP! I HAVE NOTHING
TO SAY TO YOU!

THE TOUCH OF A FINGER
ON A SWITCH SETS THE
GIANT WHEEL IN MOTION!

SO LONG, WISE GUY!
I'LL BE BACK IN HALF
AN HOUR TO SEE IF
YOU WANT TO TELL ME
ANYTHING!

IN HALF AN HOUR,
I MAY BE DEAD!

EVERYTIME THAT WHEEL DUCKS ME,
I DROWN JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE;
I'LL HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!
I WISH I HAD A KNIFE!

MEANWHILE ... PROFESSOR
MORESSBY REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS TO DISCOVER
THAT JUSTIN IS GONE!

YOU'RE WEAK, PROFESSOR.
YOU OUGHT TO REST!

I'M ALL RIGHT!
(JUSTIN MUST
NEED HELP!)

THE MAN OF LEARNING RESOLVES
TO BECOME A MAN OF ACTION!

AH, VICTORY, YOU WILL FIND ME
A POOR SUBSTITUTE FOR YOUR
MASTER! BUT I FEAR GREATLY
THAT HE IS IN DANGER!

THE GUARD SAID THE
KIDNAPPERS WENT IN
THIS DIRECTION! PERHAPS
I MAY SUCCEED IN TRAILING
THEM!

AS PROFESSOR MORESSBY SOARS UNSTEADILY
THROUGH THE SKIES, DEATH DRAWS
NEAR JUSTIN!

THIS WHEEL SEEMS LOOSE - THEY MUST
HAVE BEEN REPAIRING IT! IF I CAN
THROW MY WEIGHT TO ONE SIDE, IT
WILL UNBALANCE IT COMPLETELY!

AH! I SUCCEEDED IN PUTTING A STRAIN
ON THE WHEEL! IT'S VIBRATING!



THE VIOLENT VIBRATIONS SHAKE THE LOOSE WHEEL FROM ITS AXLE - AND IT PLUNGES DOWN TOWARD THE WATERY DEPTH BELOW!

NOW, IF ONLY THE WHEEL LANDS RIGHT SIDE UP...



IT'S FALL BROKEN BY THE WATER, THE WHEEL ROLLS ALONG THE RIVER BOTTOM AND COMES TO REST ON ONE OF THE BANKS!

THE VIBRATION AND THE FALL LOOSENED THESE ROPES! NOW I CAN SLIP MY HAND FREE!



WHILE DOWN FROM THE HEAVENS SWOOP A LOYAL FRIEND AND A FAITHFUL STEED!

PROFESSOR NORESBY! HOW DID YOU GET HERE?

VICTORY'S KEEN EYES SIGHTED HIS MASTER FROM THOUSANDS OF FEET UP! JUSTIN, I THINK YOU WILL NEED YOUR SWORD AND ARMOR!



MOMENTS LATER---

YOU WILL USE YOUR WEAPONS BETTER THAN I COULD, JUSTIN!

I HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH CERTAIN VILE WRETCHES! HO, THERE, VICTORY WE MUST BE OFF!!



WHILE IN THE POWER STATION, A VIOLENT QUARREL IS BREWING!

I SAID I WOULD LET YOU HIDE HERE FOR A SHORT TIME, NOT USE THIS PLACE TO COMMIT YOUR CRIMES!



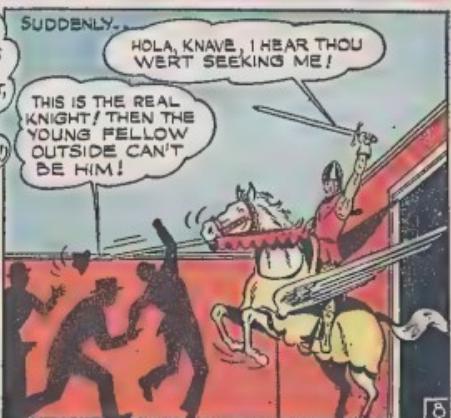
I TAKE ORDERS FROM NOBODY BUT THE SKULL! TEACH HIM A LESSON, BOYS!



SUDDENLY...

HOLA, KNAVE, I HEAR THOU WERT SEEKING ME!

THIS IS THE REAL KNIGHT! THEN THE YOUNG FELLOW OUTSIDE CAN'T BE HIM!



THE FLAT OF MY SWORD WILL
TEACH THEE TO KEEP A LEVEL
HEAD!

OWWW...

MY LANCE WILL MAKE THY
HEAD SPIN LIKE A WHEEL!

I'M GOIN' IN
CIRCLES!
I'M DIZZY!

THESE HEAVY SLUGS WILL LET
A LITTLE DAYLIGHT INTO HIM!

FOOLISH CHURLS, KNOW YE
NOT THAT BULLETS CAN NOT
PIERCE MERLIN'S ARMOR?

MY SWORD WILL LET DAYLIGHT
INTO THESE COWARDS!
WEAPONS!

KEEP IT AWAY FROM
ME! I GIVE UP!

THE TERRIFIED LEADER
OF THE GANGSTER
CREW SEEKS SAFETY
IN FLIGHT ONCE MORE.

IF HE CATCHES ME AND
HAS ME SENT BACK, IT
MEANS ELECTROCUTION!

YIELD, THEE
WRETCHED
MISCREANT.
THIS TIME CANST
THOU NOT ESCAPE!

IN HIS BLIND FLIGHT, THE
MURDEROUS MOBSTER
BLUNDERS AGAINST A
THROBBING, PUL-
SATING WIRE!

THE CURRENT
HAS PASSED
THROUGH HIS
BODY!

AHHHH

LATER, AFTER THE POLICE HAVE BEEN SUMMONED...

YOU ROUNDED UP THE
WHOLE GANG, KNIGHT!
WE OWE YOU A LOT!

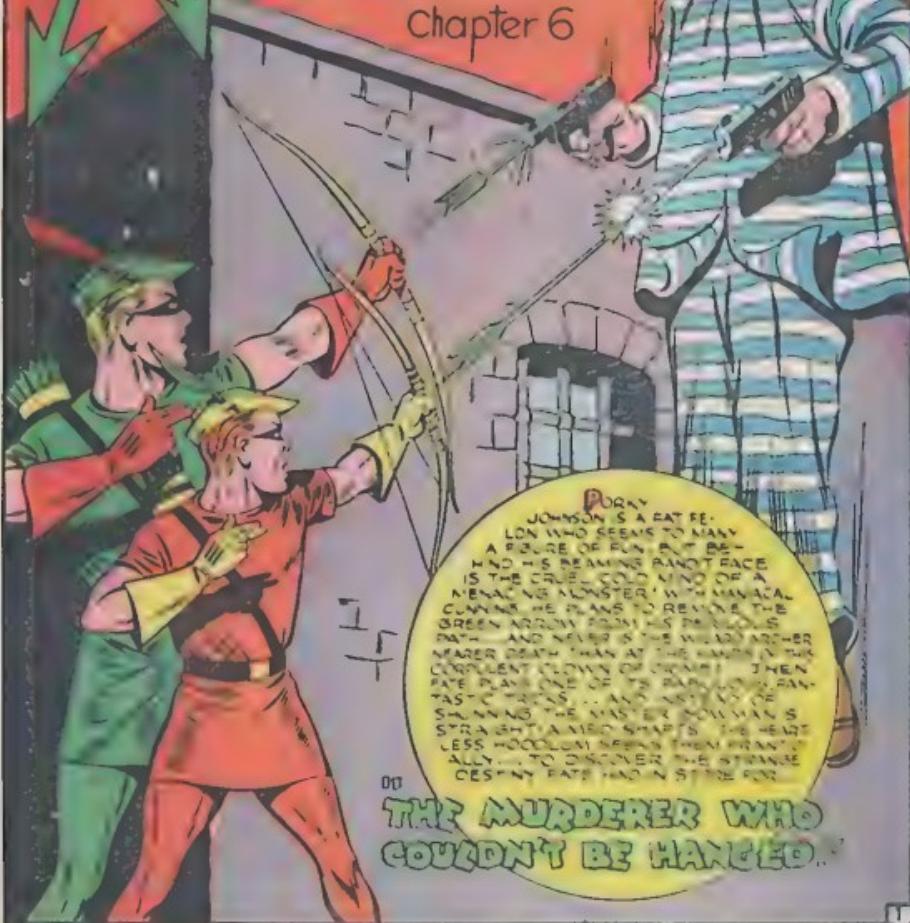
I ACT BUT TO SERVE JUSTICE,
SIR OFFICER! I REMEMBER
THAT THE MURDERER'S BROTHER
IS INNOCENT! AS FOR GREIDER
... HE HAS MET THE DEATH TO
WHICH HE WAS CONDEMNED...
ELECTROCUTION!



THE

GREEN ARROW

Chapter 6



DONKEY

JOHNSON IS A FAT FE-
LON WHO SEEMS TO MAKE
A FIGURE OF FUN BUT BE-
HIND HIS BEAMING PANOT FACE
IS THE CRUE—COLD MIND OF A
MENACING MONSTER! WITH MANACAL
CUNNING HE PLANS TO REVIVE THE
GREEN ARROW FROM HIS PAST
PATH... AND NEVER IS THE WILD ARCHER
NEARER DEATH THAN AT THE LAUGH IN THIS
CONFIDENT CLOWN OF CRIME! THEN
PATE PLAYS ONE OF ITS RARELY-SEEN, FANT-
TIC TRICKS... AND INSTANTLY HE
SHUNNING THE MASTER JOKER'S
STRAIGHT-ARMED SHARPS, THE HEAD-
LESS HOOGLUM SWINGS THEM FRANT-
ICALLY... TO DISCOVER THE STRANGE
CESPONY FATE HAD IN STORE FOR

DO

THE MURDERER WHO
COULDNT BE HANGED...

WITHIN AN ARTIFICIAL JUNGLE LOCATED IN THE HEART OF A METROPOLIS, MILD DR. BOGGS IS BUSY PERFORMING MIRACLES . . .

IS THAT THE OLDEST HORSE YOU COULD FIND? YES, DR. BOGGS! HE'S DYING OF OLD AGE!



AS THE TWO MEN WAIT TENSELY, AN AMAZING TRANSFORMATION TAKES PLACE! ANCIENT EYES GROW BRIGHT, HOLLOWES FILL, BENT LEGS STRAIGHTEN.



BUT A SUDDEN INTERRUPTION CLAIMS THE SCIENTIST'S ATTENTION . . .

HOW DO YOU DO, DR. BOGGS?
I AM PROFESSOR JOHNSON,
OF GOTHAM COLLEGE!
(THE ONLY TIME I EVER GOT
INSIDE A COLLEGE WAS
WHEN I ROBBED THE
TREASURER'S OFFICE!)



WE'LL SEE WHAT MY VIOLET LIFE-RAY WILL DO FOR HIM!
I DON'T KNOW, DR. BOGGS!
THIS IS THE BIGGEST ANIMAL WE'VE EVER TRIED IT ON!



THE AMAZING LABORATORY IS FILLED WITH THE LIVING WITNESSES OF DR. WILLIAM BOGGS' MAGIC ART...

THE ANIMALS IN THE TOP ROW ARE UNTREATED...

THOSE ON THE BOTTOM HAVE BEEN BATHED IN THE LIFE-RAY WITH MY MACHINE. I CAN GRANT PEERENTIAL YOUTH AT WILL!

IT'S VERY SIMPLE!
SIMPLY PRESS THIS BUTTON...

I'VE HEARD A GREAT DEAL OF YOUR WONDERFUL INVENTION, DR. BOGGS! I'M INTERESTED IN KNOWING HOW IT WORKS!

THANKS FOR TELLING ME ALL ABOUT IT, PAL! NOW THE SKULL WILL KNOW HOW TO USE IT!

WHAT... AHHHHH...

12

THAT WAS A LOT EASIER THAN HOLDING UP A BANK! NOW, IF THE GREEN ARROW DON'T GET ON MY TRAIL, I'LL BE SAFE!

I'LL LET THE POST OFFICE TAKE CARE OF DELIVERING THIS MACHINE TO THE SKULL! BUT JUST TO MAKE SURE THE GREEN ARROW DON'T COME AFTER ME...

I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM FIRST!



A FEW DAYS LATER, AS THE GREEN ARROW CONTINUES HIS SCHEDULED LECTURE TOUR ...



WHILE IN THE AUDIENCE ...



AS THE GREEN ARROW'S LECTURE COMES TO AN END, AMID A HURRICANE OF APPLAUSE ...



BUT THE CLEVER CRIMINAL HAS MADE
CUNNING PREPARATIONS!
AS THE POLICE ATTEMPT
TO SEIZE HIM...



RISING SWIFTLY, THE WOULD-BE MURDERER
DISAPPEARS THROUGH AN OPENING ABOVE!

SURROUND THE BUILDING!

WE'LL GO UP AFTER
HIM! HE CAN'T ES-
CAPE US FOR LONG!

BUT ON THE ROOFTOP...

THEY THOUGHT THEY'D CATCH
ME, AND HAVE ME HANGED!
BUT IN TWO MINUTES, WE'LL
BE SAFE IN THIS AUTOGIRO!

YEAH, THEM COPS WILL
BE RUNNIN' AROUND
IN CIRCLES!

SECONDS LATER...

IT'S A CLEAN
GETAWAY!

HE MADE FOOLS
OF US; AND OF
THE GREEN
ARROW, TOO!

BUT THE GREEN
ARROW AND
SPEEDY WASTE
NO PRECIOUS MO-
MENTS IN IDLE
REGRET; HASTEN-
ING TO THE
WAITING
ARROWPLANE...

AUTOGIROS CAN'T
FLY FAST! IN THE
ARROWPLANE,
WE'LL BE ABLE TO
KEEP PORKY JOHN-
SON IN SIGHT!

HE WON'T EVEN
KNOW WE'RE
FOLLOWING HIM!

HE'S HEADING SOUTH!
I WONDER IF HE HAS A
HIDEOUT NEAR HERE?

IT CAN'T BE FAR
AWAY! THAT SMALL
SHIP HASN'T GOT
MUCH OF A CRUISING
RANGE!

THOSE TREES SHUT OUT THE
LIGHT! WE'RE LIABLE TO
LOSE HIM!

WE'LL FIND HIM
AGAIN, GREEN
ARROW! AN AUTO-
GIRO ISN'T AN
EASY THING
TO HIDE!

AS THE RACING ARROWPLANE COMES OUT FROM BEHIND THE CANOPY OF TREES...

THE AUTOGIRO ISN'T IN SIGHT! IT MUST HAVE LANDED!

THAT PEAK WOULD MAKE A SWELL HIDE-OUT FOR A CROOK, GREEN ARROW! THE ONLY WAY TO GET TO IT WOULD BE BY FLYING!

THEN THAT'S THE WAY I'LL GET THERE! ALL SET FOR THE CATAPUT, SPEEDY!

ALLEYOOP!

FLASHING THROUGH THE AIR WITH THE SPEED OF A SHOOTING STAR, THE WIZARD ARCHER STREAKS TOWARD THE TOP OF THE LONE PEAK...

WON'T PORKY BE SURPRISED WHEN I DROP IN!

YEAH! I FOOLED THE GREEN ARROW THAT TIME... HEY, WHERE...

NICE HIDEOUT YOU'VE GOT HERE, PORKY! I THOUGHT I'D TAKE A LOOK AT IT!

KILL HIM! MURDER HIM! THROW HIM OFF THE CLIFF!

PORKY, YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A HAM!

OW! I BROKE MY HAND!

ALL YOU'VE GOT IS A CASE OF BRUISED PIG'S KNUCKLES!

I THINK THAT PUNCH BROUGHT HOME THE BACON, PORKY!

POW!

BUT NOW, RECOVERING FROM THEIR SURPRISE, THE CORPOULENT CRIMINAL'S HENCHMEN ENTER THE FRAY!

HERE'S WHERE WE SCORE A COUPLE BULL'S-EYES!

YEAH, THESE LEAD SLUGS OUGHT TO TEAR THE GREEN ARROW APART!

BUT TWO SLENDER SHAFTS SING THROUGH THE AIR...

HERE'S WHERE

A COUPLE OF ARROWS TEAR THOSE LEAD SLUGS OF YOURS APART!

WHILE THE WIZARD ARCHER'S BACK IS TURNED, PORKY GRAPS A MURDEROUS WEAPON!

I'LL BREAK THE GREEN ARROW IN TWO WITH THIS CLUB! I'LL SMASH HIM TO BITS!

BUT THE MASTER BOWMAN TURNS QUICKLY!

HEY...

I HEARD YOU GRUNTING, PORKY!



BUT AS MORE MOBSTERS JOIN THE FRAY...

TOO MANY CROOKS ARE PUTTING ME IN THE SOUP!

DON'T KILL HIM, BOYS! I GOTTA GOOD WAY FOR HIM TO DIE!

YOU PUT UP A GOOD FIGHT WITH THESE ARROWS, GREEN ARROW! SO I FIGURE WE OUGHTA LEARN TO USE THEM, TOO







THE PAUNCHY LEADER IS
MAKING A DESPERATE
EFFORT TO ESCAPE !

I CAN'T LET GREEN
ARROW CAPTURE ME !
I'D BE SENT BACK TO
THE PEN TO HANG !

AS HE HASTENS HIS PERIL-
OUS DESCENT, HIS HANDS
SLIP ON THE SMOOTH SUR-
FACE OF A ROCK...

HELP!
SOMEBODY!
GREEN
ARROW!

SO THERE'S PORKY!
EVEN THOUGH HE'S A
MURDERER, SPEEDY, I'LL
DO MY BEST TO SAVE HIM !

THE FRIGHTENED FELON CLUTCHES
AT A SMALL SHRUB, AND TEM-
PORARILY HALTS HIS FALL ...

HELP!
HOLD ON, PORKY ! I'M
SHOOTING AN ARROW-
LINE YOUR WAY !

I HOPE THIS ARROWLINE
REACHES FAR ENOUGH !
THIS BOW HAS LOST
SOME OF ITS ELASTICITY
SINCE PORKY HAND-
ELED IT !

HURRY UP,
GREEN
ARROW ! I
CAN'T HOLD
ON MUCH
LONGER !

THE ARROWLINE
STREAKS DOWN-
WARD... AND FALLS
SHORT! AND WITH
A FINAL DESPAIRING
SHRIEK, THE TERRIFIED
THUG PLUNGES
DOWNWARD TO
HIS DOOM !

SHORT BY A FEW
INCHES !

PORKY WAS A QUEER VICTIM
OF FATE, SPEEDY ! HE WAS
CONDENMED TO DIE AT THE
END OF A ROPE ...

AND HE DIED BECAUSE
A ROPE WASN'T LONG
ENOUGH !

NOW IT'S UP TO US TO FIND THE
MAN WHO HELPED HIM BREAK JAIL !
WE'LL SEARCH THE HIDEOUT, AND
PERHAPS WE'LL FIND A CLUE !

THE MAN WHO HELPED PORKY ESCAPE IS THE SKULL. THE POSSESSOR OF VAST WEALTH! HERE'S HIS ADDRESS, SPEEDY! PORKY SHIPPED HIM A MACHINE, HE STOLE FROM A DR. BOGGS!

WE'D BETTER FIND OUT WHAT KIND OF MACHINE IT WAS, GREEN ARROW!

THUS, SHORTLY AFTERWARD, AT THE LABORATORY OF DR. BOGGS...

THE POSSESSOR OF THAT MACHINE WILL NEVER GROW OLD, GREEN ARROW! HE WILL LIVE TO HAVE HIS EVIL WAY FOR CENTURIES!

TIME WE GOT THE LEGIONNAIRES TOGETHER, SPEEDY! THIS SKULL MAY BE A HARD NUT TO CRACK!



AN URGENT MESSAGE IS FLASHED TO THE SOLDIERS OF VICTORY ... WHILE WITHIN AN ABANDONED RAILROAD CAR A HELPLESS WARRIOR WATCHES HIS COOM APPROACH:

DON'T GIVE UP SO SOON, PARDNER! I THINK I SEE A WAY OUT ... BUT I MAY HAVE TO BREAK MY HEAD TO FIND IT!

IT LOOKS LIKE THE END FOR YOU, VIGILANTE! AND THEN I'LL DIE OF STARVATION! ALL BECAUSE I WANTED TO BE A HERO!

BY THROWIN' MY WEIGHT BACKWARD, FRIEND, I'LL BE ABLE TO TIP THIS CHAIR OVER!

BETTER HURRY, VIGILANTE! THAT TRIGGER IS TIGHTENING!



JUST IN TIME, VIGILANTE!

THAT BULLET SKIMMED MY HAIR, BUT MY HEAD'S IN ONE PIECE... AND THE CHAIR ISN'T!

THIS ROPE WILL GIVE WAY IN A FEW SECONDS... AND THEN I'M GOING AFTER THAT SIDEWINDER THAT CALLS HIMSELF THE SKULL!

WHILE THE WARRIOR OF THE PLAINS SEEKS TO PICK UP THE SKULL'S TRAIL ONCE MORE, HE RECEIVES A MESSAGE SUMMONING HIM TO A MEETING OF THE SEVEN SOLDIERS!

BUT HE'S GONE VIGILANTE! YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE TO FIND HIM!

THE SKULL THINKS THAT HIS WEALTH WILL PROTECT HIM! WE'VE GOT TO SHOW HIM THAT THE POSSESSION OF MONEY DOESN'T ALLOW A MAN TO BREAK THE LAW!

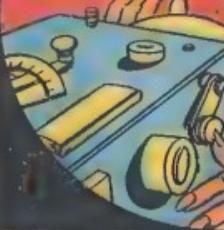
RIGHT, AVENGER! AND BE-SIDES I'VE GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH THAT SKUNK, SLADE!



WHILE IN HIS LUXURIOUS CASTLE, THE SKULL GLOATS OVER HIS MOST PRIZED POSSESSION...

JOHNSON HIMSELF GOT KILLED, BUT BEFORE HE DIED HE SENT ME THIS MACHINE THAT WILL GRANT ETERNAL LIFE!

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS STEP IN THAT VIOLET BEAM FOR A FEW MOMENTS AND I WILL BE YOUNG AGAIN! AH, THERE IS NOTHING A MAN WITH VAST WEALTH CANNOT DO!



SUDDENLY, THE NOISE OF FIERCE COMBAT REACHES THE SKULL'S EARS!

AH, MY MEN ARE FIGHTING TO PROTECT ME! I NEED DO NOTHING MYSELF, FOR I CAN GET OTHERS TO FIGHT—LIKE MY FRIEND HITLER! PERHAPS, SOME DAY I, TOO, SHALL BE A DICTATOR!

OUTSIDE THE CASTLE, THE SEVEN LEGIONNAIRES ADVANCE IN THE FACE OF DEATH!

STRIPESY, WE'LL TAKE THE PLANE ON THE RIGHT! THE KNIGHT CAN HANDLE THE OTHER ONE!

BY MY HALIDOM, THESE GIANT WASPS ARE TROUBLE SOME! I SHALL HAVE TO REMOVE THEIR STINGS!

I THINK WE'LL REST FOR A MINUTE, KID!

HEY, OUR PLANE CAN'T STAND THAT EXTRA WEIGHT! IT'S GOING INTO A SPIN!



THE STAR-ROCKET RACER SNOOPS DOWN UPON THE ENEMY PLANE!

WHILE THE SHINING KNIGHT, SLASHING WITH HIS MAGIC SWORD...

NOW THE HEAVENS WILL BE FREE OF SUCH VERMINOUS CREATURES!



WE'D BETTER LAND NOW, PARDNERS! WE CAN'T FLY INTO THE SKULL'S PALACE!

HEY, BALE OUT, EVERYBODY! WE'RE GOING TO CRASH

VICTORY CAN FLY WHEREVER THERE IS AIR! FORWARD, MY FRIENDS!



AS THE LEGIONNAIRES LAND, AN IRON-CLAD, FIRE-SPLITTING MONSTER COMES INTO VIEW!

OH, OH! WE DIDN'T COUNT ON THIS!

THAT TANK IS TOO TOUGH FOR EVEN YOUR FISTS, AVENGER!



THIS IS NOT THE FIRST FIRE-BREATHING DRAGON I HAVE SLAIN! MERLIN'S SWORD IS DEATH TO ALL EVIL!

WE'D BETTER DUCK! FEELS LIKE WE GOT HIT BY AN ANTI-TANK SHELL!



BUT AHEAD OF THE GALLANT CRIME-FIGHTERS, DANGER LOOMS OMINOUSLY...

LOOKS LIKE A JOB FOR ME AND SPEEDY THIS TIME!

WE'LL EACH TAKE A GUN, GREEN ARROW!

TWO SLENDER SHAFTS SPEED THROUGH THE AIR STRAIGHT FOR THEIR MOVING TARGETS!



THE ARROW WON'T LET THE CARTRIDGE BELT MOVE! THE GUN IS JAMMED!

WE CAN FIX THAT! PULL THE ARROW OUT!



HEY, WHAT...?

GET AWAY FROM THAT CARTRIDGE BELT, OR I'LL PIN YOUR EARS BACK!



AS THE SEVEN SOLDIERS OF VICTORY NEAR THE SKULL'S CASTLE, HIDDEN SNIPERS TAKE UP THE BATTLE!

THE MINUTE THOSE BIRDS SHOW THEM-SELVES, I'LL PICK THEM OFF! THEY CAN'T GET AT ME HERE!

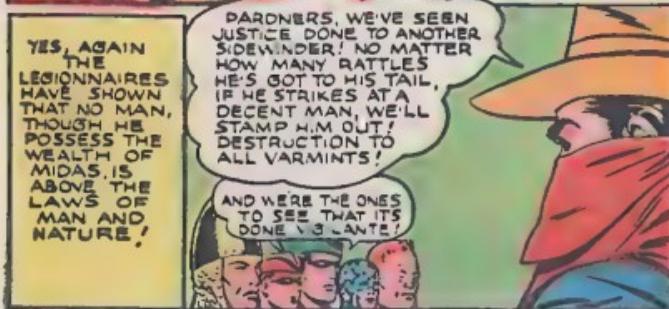


THIS LOOK LIKE YOUR CHANCE, MIST' CLIMSON!

YOU'RE RIGHT, WING! HERE GOES ONE OF MY CRIMSON CAPSULES!







LAFFS



ALL YOUR FAVORITE CHARACTERS
FROM ALL-AMERICAN, FLASH,
AND SENSATION COMICS!

96

PAGES OF BRAND
NEW ADVENTURES OF

WONDER WOMAN FLASH
GREEN LANTERN
GHOST PATROL WILDCAT
RED SCRIBBLY
BLACK PIRATE and MINUTE MOVIES!



THREE TIMES LOSER

by Eric Carter

WHEN a guy is a three times loser he has to be plenty careful. A three times loser, in gangland parlance, is like a guy who has one foot in the grave and the other on a banana peel. One little slip and you're through.

They call it the Baumes Law. It is a law with teeth, and means that if you are a four time offender, you go to jail for life.

Slick Mason did not intend to do that.

Now you would think that a hood like Slick, who has missed up three times in a row, would be very, very careful about pursuing crime further. Well, Slick was careful. From now on, he promised the boys, every job would be performed the way military men execute strategy.

Of course, a smart guy would have given up crime entirely. One little miss and you are singing the Prisoner's Song the rest of your days. Only Slick wasn't a smart guy. He was a dumb guy. And only so because he *thought* he was smart.

Take this bank job now. There couldn't be any slips, not the way Slick had planned it. He knew to the minute at what given point a watchman would pass; he knew the alarm bells; he knew where the cop who patrolled the beat would be.

"I know everything," he proudly told the two thugs, Splinter and Wedgy, who sat watching him, "except where is Barmy?"

Slick said: "I think he went to the Doc's. Don't you remember, Boss?"

Slick Mason frowned. He should have remembered. Af-

ter all, Barmy had said something. Now what was it he was complaining about? Heart? No, Barmy had a heart as strong as his good right arm. Feet? Yeah, that must have been it. Barmy was always complaining about his feet.

Slick leaned back in his chair and reflected. Sure, it was Barmy's feet. He recalled now, how two years ago he had taken Barmy, a big good-natured clown of a fellow, into the mob. Barmy had been swiping cars in Slick's territory. He hadn't known when he grabbed a big black Cadillac that it had belonged to Slick Mason.

At first, Slick had been furious. Then he had had to laugh.

Thus the advent of Barmy into Slick Mason's high-powered organization. The four thugs had been doing well, too, this past year and Slick was feeling pretty confident that he had beaten the four times jinx.

This last job would set them on Easy Street. It had been cased for months, and every man knew what he was to do. Including Barmy.

Slick looked at his watch. There wasn't much time to lose.

A door opened.

"Well," Slick said. "It's about time."

Barmy grinned. "I couldn't help it, Slick. You know, you said I should go see the Doc."

Slick saw the other two boys looking at him. Their expressions seemed to say, "What's the matter with the Boss? If he knew where Barmy was all the time, why'd he ask us?" This nettled him.

"Okay, Barmy," he said irritably. "So you been to the Doc's. And now if your dogs are okay, and your ears are

open, just listen to what you have to do."

"But Slick, don't you want to hear about those pains I was getting?"

Splinter and Wedgy tittered. They were high class box men, and, after all, Barmy was only a car thief.

"You'll get some pains," Slick warned, "if you don't get these instructions into your thick skull. You know I'm hot, and this is our last job. It's okay for you guys, but one slip for old Slick and he winds up the rest of his days in the Big House."

"Gosh, I'm sorry, Boss." Barmy was properly penitent. "But I only—"

"Shut up! Tonight, when it's dark, you pick out a new car. There's a big show on at the movies tonight, and the street will be filled with stuff. Make sure you get a new one. And another thing, Barmy. This city has a dim-out regulation now. Nothing but parking lights are to be lit. Remember that."

He turned to Splinter and Wedgy. "We're going to be working in the dark most of the time and we got to be careful." He was becoming angry. This war was getting on his nerves. "Blackouts on everything," he stormed. "How's an honest crook going to see what he's doing?"

Splinter was sympathetic. "That's right, Boss. I even had to get a special flash to work by." He pounded the table with his fist. "But we'll show the rest of the hoods in this town what a real haul is like. They'll never forget this."

Slick smiled. He had the best bunch in town. He could depend on them. "Okay, boys," he said expansively. "Spread

out. We'll meet tonight at eleven sharp."

He watched them go, a feeling of well-being suffusing him. Nobody would ever have figured on a bank robbery at eleven. But then, they didn't know Slick Mason, and how he worked.

The whole route was carefully planned. They'd pick up Barmy in the alley back of the bank. It was plenty dark enough there, and nobody would see a black car. Then, going out of town, until they hit the highway, they'd take back streets, which were plenty blacked out. "Maybe," Slick mused, "this war isn't so bad after all."

Promptly at ten-thirty, a huge, hulking fellow walked leisurely around the car-filled streets surrounding the movie palace. It was Barmy, smiling happily at Slick's strategy. "Slick sure knows his stuff," he said, glancing at the crowd still storming the theatre. They were giving away \$3,000 tonight, and there was a good picture besides. The management had called out the reserves when, at this time, the crowd showed no signs of decreasing.

He shook his head as a sharp pain knifed above his eyes. He wished Slick had listened to what the Doc had said.

Barmy marvelled. Something really was wrong with him. A big fellow like him, too. He shrugged. The pain had subsided. "Slick'll explain what it is," he told himself. "A guy like Slick is smart."

His eyes lit up suddenly. How come he had missed this car? It was a lulu. Bright and shining.

Barmy bent over, looked at the tires. Oh boy, brand new! Some big shot must own this one, he thought. Well, he could have it back later. Maybe.

In a few moments, he was spinning off. He drove the car around until one minute to

eleven. Then, with the lights extinguished, he slid into the alley behind the bank. The motor purred so beautifully it was scarcely audible. The cops would have some job if they tried to chase this job. She'd do ninety without a murmur.

He settled back onto the cushions. The boys would be working inside about now, having gotten in through barred windows weakened by acid. Slick had even found the alarm on the window. There'd be no trouble there.

Fifteen minutes later he heard the shot. It wasn't loud, but Barmy knew what it was. His ears were attuned to such noises. "Something up," he said, troubled. But he kept his place. When Slick gave orders, you didn't question them.

Another moment and the boys were there. They had the money with them. Slick slid into the seat alongside Barmy. "Get going!" he said. "Splinter had to wing the watchman."

The car moved smoothly down the street. Through the corner of his eye, Barmy saw Slick mop his brow. He knew what that meant. Slick was worried. He didn't like gun play.

"Don't worry, Boss," he said. "We'll be a few hundred miles from here by morning. This is some bus."

Slick nodded. The car was powerful, all right. Barmy had done a good job. Besides, nobody would see it in these blacked out streets or on darkened highways. That was one good thing about a black car. Further, there were so many black ones, it wouldn't be noticed in daylight traffic.

The car roared through the night. Slick and the boys cat-napped after counting the haul. It was plenty, and Slick was well satisfied.

Slick closed his eyes, and the night rolled on, soft and smooth like the limousine that was carrying them to freedom. By tomorrow night they'd have

reached the hideout and ditched the car.

Everything, Slick said happily, as he dozed off, was fine. Just a perfect Slick Mason job.

It was the wail of the siren that woke him up!

The sharp rays of the newly-risen sun hit his eyes. He looked back. "Cops!"

Yes, there were two of them, roaring along with sirens and throttles wide open. Slick reached for his gun. Splinter and Wedgy were scared, looked at him. Surprise had caused panic.

Then Slick leaned back, relaxed his grip on the gun. "Wait a minute, boys," he said. "What've we got to worry about? We can bluff this out." He knew Barmy, knew that the car's registration would be in the pocket. Barmy never took a car without making sure the registration was around. News of the theft wouldn't have reached here yet.

"Slow down, Barmy," he said. "We'll talk to 'em." He grinned.

The grin froze. "Barmy," he gasped— "Look—what did you do?"

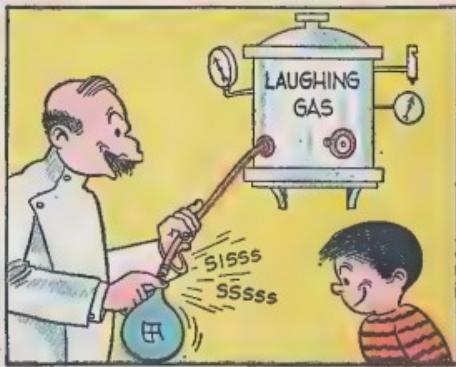
It was the first time he had seen the color of the car. Bright green. And on the hood were the initials, "P.D."

Too late then to do anything about it. Barmy had slowed down. He, too, saw the letters now. But it was too late. The troopers were alongside and their guns were drawn. And Slick, his features contorted with surprise was saying to Barmy: "A black car. I told you to get a black car. What—what—happened?"

Barmy scratched his head, with cuffed wrists. "Ain't it black, Slick?" Then suddenly, understanding came to his face.

"Slick," he said. "That eye doc I went to says I'm color blind. I wanted to ask you about that. Hey, Slick, what's the matter?"

"He fainted," one of the troopers grinned. "I guess the shock was too much for him. Come on, boys."





DIZZY DATA

....BY CPL. Geo. Popp



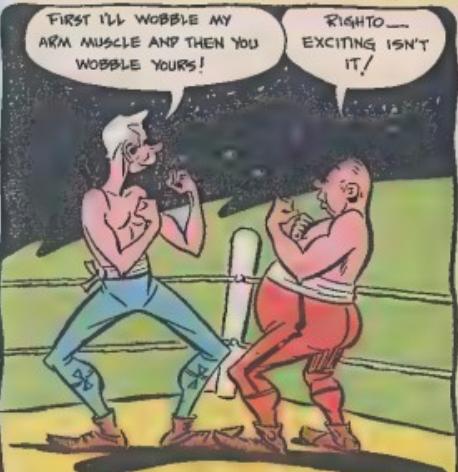
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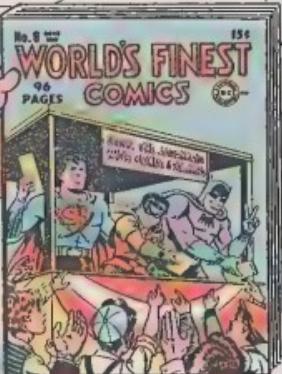


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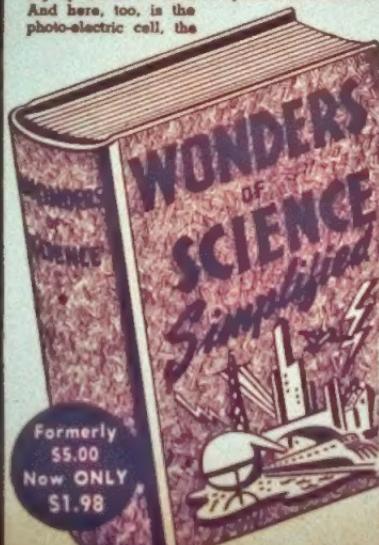
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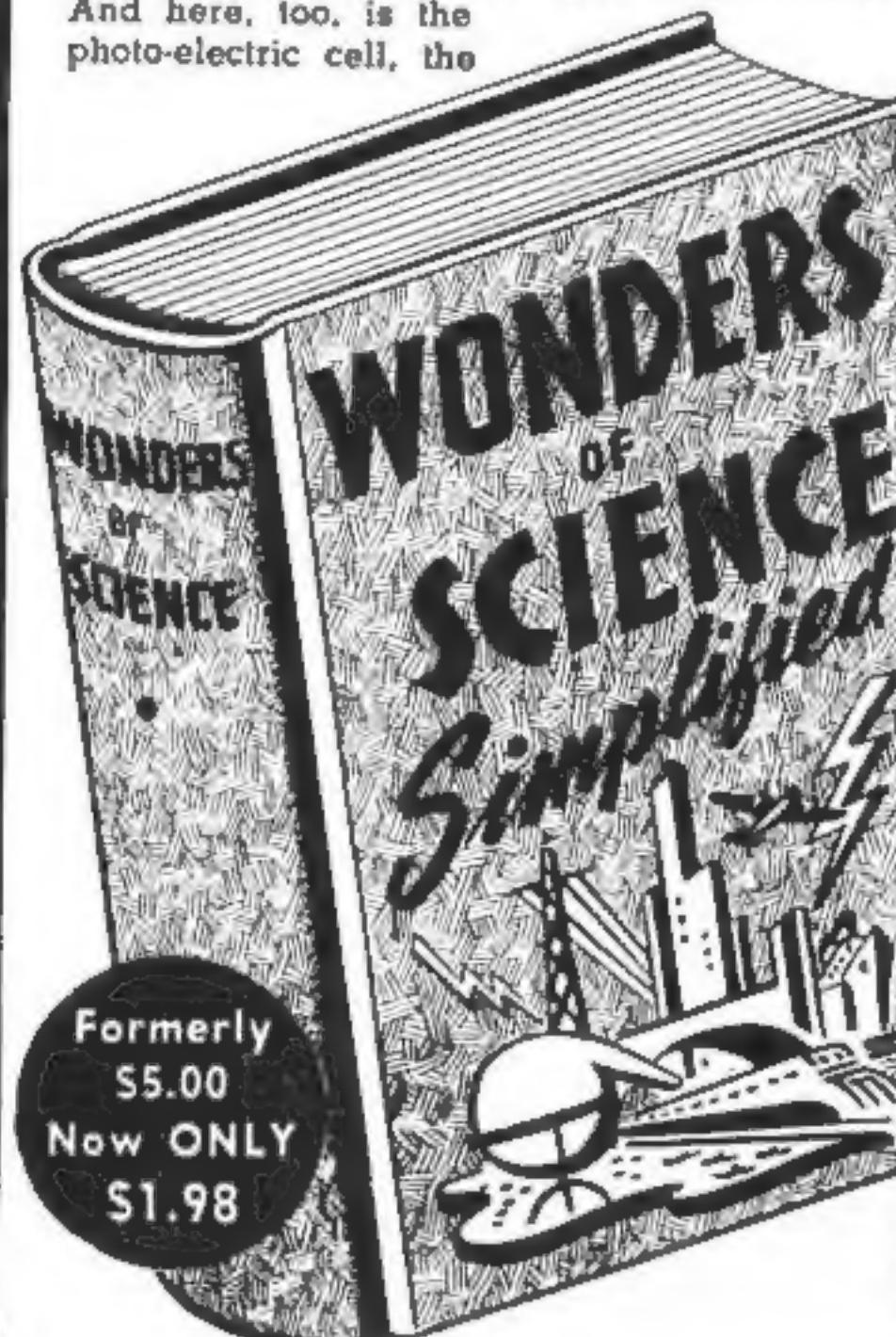
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